Sports Albany wrestlers win nine titles at BSAL championships [C1]

Arts & Leisure Musician Asheba reaches out to the younger set [C10]

Abany City Council moves ahead with tax plans

es would fund street orm drain repairs

library services

By Alan Lopez

sures on the ballot. The deadline for submitting ballot language to the country is March 10.

The \$24 library tax would raise \$168,000 a year, and would make up for 18 hours cut by Alameda Country as well as for opening the facility for four hours every Sunday.

"The benefits far outweigh the cost of this tax," Linda Yamamoto, the chair of the Albamy Library Board said. "Thoe you all can support it."

The submitting ballot language to wovers \$57.34. That tax, which downs \$57.34. That tax, which wovers, approved in 1994, raised \$425,000 in the last fiscal year to pay for 21½ library hours.

The \$100 parcel tax would raise \$700,000 a year to pay for opening the facility for four hours every Sunday.

"The benefits far outweigh the cost of this tax," Linda Yamamoto, the chair of the Albamy Library Board said. "Thoe you all can support it."

The new tax would be on top of a library tax costing property overs \$57.34. That tax, which difficients \$5.34. T

The council will receive additional information on the City Hall and veterans building plan at another meeting. In the meantime, the council is scheduled to make a final decision on the library and storm drain and street paving taxes on March 6. The city is looking at keeping the taxes in perpetuity and increasing them annually, possibly at the rate of inflation.

See TAX, Page A10

No clear

stabbing

suspect ■ Witnesses provided inconsistent descriptions in the Feb. 10 death of Juan

Ramos, 18

picture of

By Alan Lopez

BRARY KNIGHTS



SHERRY LAVA.
WIELDING actors Jordan MacKay and Casey Jackson of Berkeley perform their comedy routine "A Hard Day's Knight" at the Kensington Library on Tuesday
ages 5 and older learned how to become a titled knight from the Middle Ages and were granted a balloon sword during the event.

this hard to solve," Galvan said.

Juan Ramos,
18, died after
being stabbed
outside a home
on the 700
block of Contra
Costa Avenue
in Berkeley on
Feb. 10, where
an Albany High
School girl was throwing a party
that drew around 100 people, students said.

University police release sketch of attempted kidnap suspect

A 7-year-old girl was grabbed at a university housing project but broke free before she was taken

Melanie Carroll

Melanie Carroll
EAST BAY DAILY NEWS
University of California Police
have released a sketch of a man
who allegedly tried to kidnap a
7-year-old girl earlier this month
at a housing complex for Berkeley students with families.
During a community meeting
last week to discuss the matter, parents said they want their children
fingerprinted, and were told by police to have current pictures of their
children available, said Marie Felde,
a spokeswoman for the university.
The campus police are arranging to make the fingerprinting materials available, the
spokeswoman said.
Implementing a neighborhood
watch program was also suggested during the Feb. 16 meeting, Felde said.
University Village in Albany
houses about 760 student families, most with children.
On Feb. 11 around 2:45 p.m.,
a man grabbed the girl while she
was playing with two other chil-



See RAMOS, Page A10

dren near a baseball field east of 10th Street.
She was carried several feet but was able to break free and escaped unharmed, UCPD said.
The man is described as having blond or brown hair, perhaps with blond streaks, and between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 1 inch tall. The man is likely in his mid-20s, has a slim build, and may have tattoos on his forearms, Detective Jason Collom said.
Anyone with information should call 510-642-0472 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or 510-642-6760 at all other times.

rking peal may ve out nding cafe

on's restaurant ris concerned a break tral Perk might s customers to park

y Alan Lopez

by, the co-owner of Cen-4 at San Pablo Avenue, appeal of a recent Plan-mission decision grant-mission decision grant-mission decision grant-decision decision grant-mission decision grant-thas prevented her and kon Fox, from opening gy pay rent.



A PEDESTRIAN passes throught he parking lot of Pastime Hardware in El Cerrito on Wednesday. Pastime has separate parking lots for customers and employees, an arrangement advocated by Nation's Giant Hamburgers owner Dale Power to deal with parking shortages. he wasn't against the business but appealed the decision to bring attention to the potential parking problem Central Perk might create. Central Perk, which has only three parking spaces, was granted an exception from the city requirement of 30 spaces. The city's Planning Commission granted the exception Feb. 1.

prior to Central Perk at that lo-cation had been given a 10-space exception.

However, he recognized that parking in the area — on San Pablo near Fairmount and Cen-tral avenues — may become a problem.

See PARKING, Page A10

At the Library

■ Exploring the pros and cons of 'roving' librarians. Page A5



Martin Snapp

Public Parking Restricted To One Hour Parking For Pastime Customers Only

VEHICLES PARKED

IN VIOLATION

WILL BE TOWED OR CITED

Remembering an ordinary person who made Oakland a special place. Page A3

Police Reports	.A
Neighbors	
Opinion	A.
	C
Movies	.C
Crossword	



NEWS BRIEFS

Albany mayor to host coffee

Albany Mayor Allan Maris will host a coffee for residents who want to discuss city issues from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 4 at the PriPri Cafe, 1309 Solano Ave.

Maris said he could likely accommodate up to 12 people on a "first come, first served" basis.

'It's coffee on the mayor and talk about your concerns," Maris d. "Bring your kids. The PriPri Cafe is set up for that." For more information, call Maris at 510-526-7032.

Democratic club to discuss landscaping tax

The El Cerrito Democratic Club will talk about whether to take a position on the city's lighting and landscaping election at its next meeting. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave.

The club is also scheduled to hear a presentation from University of San Francisco professor Stephen Zunes on United States policy in the Middle East; will discuss improving and expanding its precinct organizing; will discuss whether the club should partner with Progressive Democrats of America; and will discuss whether the club should support a resolution recommending that the California Democratic Party do more to support Democratic candidates challenging a Republican incumbent.

For more information, call 510-527-2194.

For more information, call 510-527-2194.

Medical marijuana dispensary law proposed

At its next meeting, the Albany planning and zoning commission will consider making a recommendation about a law that would allow one medical marijuana dispensary in the city.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the City Council Chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

The city's medical marijuana ordinance would forbid smoking marijuana on the premises as well as within 200 feet of the entrance. It would also prohibit the one facility from being within 1,000 feet of schools, child care centers, libraries, parks, community centers, youth-oriented establishments or smoke shops.

The ordinance is available online at www.albanyca.org and at the planning department. Call 510-528-5760 for more information.

— Alan Lopez

Groups weigh whether to sue over condos

Potential plaintiffs have until March 3 to file lawsuits over a condominium project expected to be built on the southeastern corner of the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center.

The Albany City Council, one of four appellants of an El Cerrito planning commission decision approving the development, discussed legal action in closed session Tuesday but made no decisions, Mayor Allan Maris said.

The Albany school district is still looking at its options, Super-intendent Willie Wong said. So are neighborhood groups, El Cer-rito resident Charles Burress said.

By a 4-1 vote, the El Cerrito City Council scaled back the south ern building of the development by one floor but denied the appeals at its Jan. 30 meeting.

BART adds cars to rush-hour trains

Thanks to a surge in ridership, BART plans to add more cars rush-hour trains to ease crowding on the system.

The number of cars vary with each train, but all trains serving wntown Oakland and San Francisco will see a boost in passen-

"This is just one step, a big step though, in our commitment make BART more customer-friendly," said BART board preside Carole Ward Allen.

Average weekday ridership at the beginning of February stood at 326,500 passengers, or about 11,000 more than expected. BART officials attributed the gains to a desire by commuters to avoid traffic and paying high gas prices, among other factors.

Committee to review owl habitat plan

Albany's waterfront committee will review a plan to create owl habitat at the Albany plateau at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the City Council chamber, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

The plateau, a former dumping site for building materials, is about 20 acres along the waterfront. It's popular with dog walkers, and is a part of the Eastshore State Park. The state parks department is considering a plan to fence off about half of the plateau for burrowing owl habitat. The plan is part of an effort to build ball fields near Gilman Street, where a burrowing owl was seen over several winters.

Call the planning department at 510-528-5760 for more information.

Caruso cancels presentation for planners

An executive with Caruso Affiliated canceled a presentation scheduled for Wednesday before the Albany Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss the developer's proposed retail-housing project at Golden Gate Fields.

Matt Middlebrook, an executive with Caruso Affiliated, said a meeting before the planning commission could be held after an application for development at the racetrack's parking lots is submitted. That's expected to happen in April.

Caruso recently gave presentations to the traffic and safety and park and recreation commissions.

Middlebrook said Caruso Affiliated canceled the meeting to avoid further criticism of city staff, council members and the planning commission that had resulted from previous presentations.

— Alan Lopez

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 13

- AUTO BREAK-IN Someone broke into a white 1995 Toyota Corolla on the 1600 block of Sonoma Avenue during the night.
- ROBBERY At about 10 a.m. a man, described as Latino, 20 to 23 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall, thin build, weighing about 150 to 160 pounds, wearing a white T-shirt, gray hooded zlp-up sweatshirt and blue jeans with a symbol on the right front pocket, robbed the Blockbuster Video store on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue using a handgun. He fled on San Pablo Avenue and was gone when officers arrived.
- TOYOTA STOLEN Bety p.m. and 11 p.m. someone stole a ma-roon 1990 Toyota Carrry parked on the 1000 block of Cornell Avenue.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- AUTO BREAK-IN During the night, someone broke into a 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee parked on the 700 block of Taft Street and stole items from
- and 11:30 a.m. someone stole a purse from a gray Honda Accord parked at Ocean View Elementary School on the 1000 block of Jackson Street.
- VANDALISM Over the weekens someone broke into a newspaper bo in front of the Albany Post Office and stole coins from inside.
- with a special cours from inside.

 p.m., officers responded to the parking lot at Golden Gate Fields on reports of a car driving dangerously in the upper parking lot. When officers arrived, they found that the black 1999 Ford had gone over the edge of the upper lot and plunged about 40 feet into the lower parking lot. The driver, an 87-year-old EI Certh oman, was deceased when officers arrived.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- HUBCAPS STOLEN During the night, someone stole the hubcaps off a white 1987 Oldsmobile Delta 88 parked on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue.
- LICENSE PLATE STOLEN —
- ONE HONDA STOLEN, TWO RE-■ ONE HONDA STOLLEN, TWO DIS-COVERED — Someone stole a white 1991 Honda parked on the 800 bloof of Curtis Street. White taking the repo-officers located a white 1990 Honda Accord that had been reported as stolen from Albany in January. The 1991 Honda was found in Richmond on Feb. 20. It had been partially stripped, and the owner was notified.
- year-old Oakland woman was arrest for credit card fraud and possession stolen property at the Target store or the 1000 block of Eastshore.
- the 1000 block of Eastshore.

 PEDESTRIAN REVOLTS— At about 4 p.m., an El Cerrito woman reported that while she was driving her black 2005 Honda Accord out of a parking lot near Solano and Peralta an enues, she almost hit a man crossa the street. She was upset because the man hit her car with his hand, causing a dent in the rear door. She drove a fe blocks away to await officers.

Thursday, Feb. 16

- NO BAIL WARRANT At about 8:45 a.m. officers arrested a 39-year-old Albany man on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue for a no-bail Albany warrant for assault.
- VANDALISM During the night someone broke the front window of Walker's Pie Shop on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. There were no wit-
- BIKE STOLEN AND FOUND At about 3:30 p.m. a woman reported that

her son's bilke, which had been stolen from Albany Middle School earlier in the day, was now in front of the BewMo store on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue. She had seen two boys, both wearing white Tshirts, one wearing a blue baseball cap and the other wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. They left the bilke to go in the store and then were seen walking south on San Pablo Avenue. They were gone when officers arrived.

Friday, Feb. 17

- NO DRIVER'S LICENSE Shortly after midnight officers stopped a red 1990 Subaru near San Pablo and Stockton avenues for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 24-year-old Oakland man, for driving without a drivers license.
- DUI At about 2 a.m., a 33-year-old Berkeley man driving a white Ford T-Bird near San Pablo Avenue and Cedar Street was arrested for DUI.

Saturday, Feb. 18

- FIGHT At about 12:30 a.m. offi-cers responded to the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a fight in progress. They arrested a 22-year-old Albany man for disorderly conduct.
- Albany man for disorderly conduct.

 In DOUBLE ARREST Officers stopped a black Honda near Gilman and Nellson streets for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 29-year-old Berkeley man, for DUI. They subsequently arrested the passenger, a 23-year-old Petaluma man, for disor-
- AUTO BREAK-IN During the night someone broke into a green 1977 Dodge van on the 500 block of Evelyn
- Avenue.

 "SILENT ASSAULT —'At about 1
 p.m. a Richmond woman reported that
 at about 10 a.m., while she was walking on San Pablo Avenue near Monroe
 Street, a man ran up to her, grabbed
 her cell phone from her pocket, and
 then ran away. The man did not say
 anything, and was described as a white

- bors sa a gray van-type noene, but no one
- DOUBLE DRUG SALE Officers investigate pick-up on the 500 Street behind Alba rested a 39-year of

Sunday, Feb.

OUTSTANDING W

- DOUBLE BREAKIN
- CHEVROLET PICK Officers investigated a Chevrolet pick-toparking lot of the Pablo Avenue for They found that as stolen from F

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Monday, Feb. 13

■ OLDSMOBILE STOLEN — A 1988 Oldsmobile was taken from the 700 block of Liberty Street sometime be-tween 6:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- ROBBERY A man robbed a 66-year-old woman of her purse on the southwest parking lot at EI Cerrito Plaza at 9 p.m* The man pushed the woman into the side of her car and ran away af-ter grabbing her purse.
- ROBBERY At 9 p.m., a man pointed a gun at a clerk at a gas station on the 11600 block of San Pablo Avenue. The man, who had a red bandana over his face, took cash and cigatites over his face, took cash and cigatites ■ WINDOW SMASHED — The p

senger window of a Volkswagen was smashed sometime between 2 and 4:50 p.m. at El Cerrito Plaza. Nothing was taken, police said.

- SONATA STOLEN A 1996 Hyundal Sonata was taken from the 300 block of Behrens Street sometime be-tween 7 and 8:10 a.m.
- CAMRY STOLEN A 1991 Toyota Carnry was taken from the 6700 block of Eureka Avenue sometime between 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 14 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

■ HONDA CIVIC STOLEN — A 1993 Honda Civic was taken from El Cerrito Plaza sometime between 2:50 and 4:10

Thursday, Feb. 16

■ HONDA CIVIC STOLEN — A 1996 Honda Civic was taken from the 300 block of Coronado Street at 11 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17

- NISSAN RECOVERED Police re-covered a stolen Nissan Maxima on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue. The vehicle had been reported stolen to Richmond police seven months earlier.
- ROBBERY A man with a handgu robbed a business on the 10700 block of San Pablo Avenue at 5:30 p.m.
- inFiniti STOLEN A 1991 Infiniti G20 was taken from the 2500 block of Tulare Avenue between 10 p.m. on Feb. 17 and 10 a.m. the next day, it was re-covered on the 1900 block of Francisco Way in Richmond on Feb. 19.

Saturday, Feb.

■ HONDA ACCORD STOLE 1991 Honda Accord was taken San Mateo at Central avenue time between 5:30 p.m. on Rul 12:45 p.m. the next day.

Sunday, Feb. 1

- ROBBERY A man point at employees at 9:30 p.m. at ■ NISSAN STOLEN — A19
 Stanza was taken from the 3

Spanish bilingual school to open in Rockridge By Kimberly S. Wetzel

When Liza Sanchez tried to enroll her daughter Camilla in Centro Vida, a Spanish-English immersion preschool in Berke-ley, there was a four-year wait to get in.

ley, there was a four-year want to get in.

Sanchez put her daughter on the wait list when she was 5 months old. By the time she was accepted, it was too late. Camilla, then 4, had already started at another school.

The experience made Sanchez wonder why Centro Vida was one of the only Spanish-English immersion schools in the Bay Area, especially when there are four French-American bilingual independent schools, four Chinese schools and a number with programs in Armenian, Cantonese, Danish, German,

CORRECTION

Norwegian and Swedish.

Why hardly any Spanish schools, when there are so many Spanish speakers in the Bay Area and in California?

"It's something we still don't fully understand," Sanchez said.
"Especially since there's such a need for this type of school."

So Sanchez and other parents sharing the same concern started a movement to open a school offering true bilingual teaching from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Their creation is Escuela Bilingue Internacional, located at the old site of the St. Augusten's Church and Catholic School in Oakland's Rockridge. It will open its doors to preschoolers and kindergartners in September.

"Given the importance of Spanish in California and

throughout the region, we feel very strongly that its profile needs to be raised," said David Goldstein, a Berkeley parent and board member. "Providing an environment where Spanish language is the mode of instruction rather than simply a foreign language sends a message about its

eral application of apply for this day, and boar

THE JOURNAL

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Craig Lazzeretti, Hills editor

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ARCHWAY SCHOOL



A story and photo caption last week about PriPri Cafe in Albany

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Phil Jensen: 510-262-2739



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Neighbors

Longtime Santa ouched many lives

ANTA CLAUS died last
week. His real name was
Dennis Cavegnaro. He
one of those so-called orry people who make Oaksuch a special place.
was the only person I
who worked as a freeSanta. (His business
read, "Have sleigh, will

mack John Brodie.
bibably caught more
from him than Gene
to the say.
was also a batboy for
kkind Oaks, managed
by Stengel and starring

of being a Marine. He spent 20 years in the Corps, rettring in 1979 with the rank of ma-jor. He was a Marine aviator who flew A-4 Skyhawk fight-ers on more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam. After retirement, he forged a second career as a freelance writer. He could write about anything. (One of my favorite stories of his is one about the role of the Mexican Air Force in World War II.) But his real forte was travel pieces, usu-

had ever heard of.

He was also my best source, hands down. I can't count the number of great stories he turned me on to, from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Japanese-American World War II unit, to Jim Beere, the Oakland cop who was called up to serve in Iraq.

Iraq.

Dennis always had a big smile on his face. Zack Griffin, a friend of his from the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, says he can't remember a time when Dennis wasn't smiling. Neither can I.

And that's curious, becaus his life was tinged with great sadness.

his life was tinged with great sadness.

Remember I said he was so sweet with kids? Once upon a time, he had a daughter of his own, an adorable little girl named Lea. Tragically, Lea died at only 13 months.

Ever since then he saw a

died at only 13 months.

Ever since then, he saw a little bit of her in every kid he met. By being kind to them, he was being kind to the daughter he never had a chance to watch grow up.

Dennis suddenly fell ill two weeks ago. He was rushed to the hospital, where the doctors discovered an advanced stage of cancer. He sank rapidly, and within a week he was gone at age 70. None of his friends had a chance to say goodbye.

So I'll do it now, for all of them. Goodbye, Dennis. Semper fi.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2768 or e-mail

QUALITY APPLIANCE SERVICE AND PARTS SINCE 1934

TOF THE WEEK



OMAR is a 5-year-old male, chocolate Lab retriever mix, and may be available for adoption from the Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society. Omar would prefer to be your "one and only" pet.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100; rabbits \$40 — including spaying, neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley-East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Information: www.berkeleyhumane.org or www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

FACES & PLACES

Encore jazz to aid Katrina victims

took in 138 students left homeless by the hurricane.

Their role with the Louisiana school has been an education in many ways for Kensington students, both in helping others after a natural disaster and in learning about the culture in another part of the country.

Students and the larger school community had already raised \$7,100 for their Baton Rouge counterparts, and they show no signs of letting up. Now, the benefit musical performance puts second-graders at center stage of the school's relief efforts.

The first two stagings of "All That Jazz," on Feb. 9 and 10 drew rave parent reviews, and featured 13 jazz classics sung by the 7-year-olds. The show was put together by teacher Janet McKnight, and students perform to live music provided by teacher Janet Jones, parents and friends.

Numbers are "sung in unbelievable spirit and enthusiasm by a very diverse group of 7-year-olds that sound as if they could be ready for performing arts school," writes Jim Thomsen, co-president of the Kensington Hilltop Dads's Club. The additional performance was added "due to overwhelming response," he said.

"The play concludes with Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World' being sung by the cast and the audience as a slide show of Katrina images plays on the screen," Thomsen writes.



SONGWRITER BONNIE LOCKHART of Oakland performs "Songs and Music Games from Around

The performance is at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the school, 90 Highland Blvd., Kensington. Donations for Progress Elementary School can be sent to the Kensington School PTA/Katrina Fund. For more details call the school at 510-231-1415.

Chris Treadway

STUDENT ART ON DISPLAY:
Teacher Sue Wehrle is kind
enough to pass on the news that
more than 100 masks based on
African art that were made by Portola Middle School art students will
be featured in a show at the MC
Art Gallery, 10344 San Pablo Ave.
in El Cerrito. The show will run
from March 3 to 11. Gallery hours
are noon to 5 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A reception for
the artists will be Friday, March 3,
from 7 to 9 p.m. The gallery can
be reached at 510-528-1349.

— Chris Treadway

— Chris Treadway

JAZZ BAND CONCERT: The

Albany Jazz Band will perform a

concert at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at Ocean View Elementary School, 1000 Jackson St.

The show will offer cabaret seating, refreshments, and dancing. Admission is free. The jazz band is a part of the Albany Adult Education program. For more information, call 510-524-9538 or go online at www.albanyjazzband.org.

GARDEN CLUB MEETING:
The El Cerrito Garden Club's regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, at 9:30 a.m., in the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser lane.

A program on sustainable gardening and wine growing will be presented by Ann Thrupp, managing director of California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, and manager of organic development at Fetzer Vineyards. Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome. The cost is \$3. For more information, call 510-526-2976.

Craig Lazzeretti

MARTIAL ARTS: Jennifer Tutass, a 2004 graduate of El Cerrito High School, continues to demonstrate her martial arts prowess, coming away with a gold medal at the 58th San Jose Buddhist Judo Club and 14th annual Sensei Memorial Invitational Judo Tournament, held Feb. 12 at the San Jose State University Event Center in San Jose.

The tournament annually attracts more than 600 competitors, and is one of the largest in the United States. The black belt levels were broadcast over the Internet and available worldwide.

Tutass is in training at the U.S.

Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., and attending the University of Colorado, where she is majoring in international business.

TRADEWAY ON TV: "Bay TRADEWAY ON TV: "Bay
Area Bargains," a half-hour show
hosted by Henry Tenenbaum on
KRON TV, will be broadcasting
live from Tradeway Furniture,
10860 San Pablo Ave. in El Cerrito, at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, say
store owners Joe and Marsha
Conwill. The family-owned business is celebrating its 70th year.

— (This Tradaway)

ACADEMIA: Debra Michelle Gilkerson of Albany, a senior at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., was named to the dean's list for the fall semester.

Building awareness is vital to maintain mental fitness

elderly people in the grocery stores these days, and many of them appear to be unaware of others. I had one gentleman start loading his items on the conveyor belt before I was finished unloading mine, and when I asked him if he might wait until I had finished, he seemed genuinely surprised that there was anyone in front of him. Is it common for older people to be so unaware of others, and how do I prevent that from happening to me when I am older?

A. That is a very scary situation! Such an occurrence hasn't happened to me, and I don't really believe that being unaware is common among older adults. How I might handle such a situation I am not sure, but it sounds as if you did as good a job as possible.

Awareness, as you may well know, is for me the No. 1 component of mental fitness. People not aware of their surroundings are incapable of doing much of anything. So many accidents are possible if people are unaware of oncoming traffic, of cracks in the

CONNIE LYNCH

Think of children the ultimate observers. They are filled with that characteristic so necessary for being aware — curiosity.

sidewalk, objects on stairs and so many more hazards.

How can individuals become more observant? It is so essential, yet some of us have no desire to do so. The motto that everyone should adopt is "pay attention."

Consider ways that can be used to improve awareness. Think of children — the ultimate observers. They are filled with that characteristic so necessary for being aware — curiosity. When they examine a new item, it is a thorough process. Most of us have watched a young child after a rain. He or she wants to know everything possible about

that puddle on the walk.

Some questions may include: Will the puddle be above my shoes? If I jump on it, will it splash up to my knees? How high will it splash up to my knees? How high will it splash if I throw a rock in it? Is it colder than my bathtub water? Will this stick float on it? On and on go the questions until all five senses have been utilized.

The child may be soaked and filthy, but he or she is completely satisfied. Now, how can we persuade older adults to ask questions that will improve their awareness? How unfortunate that there is no way to instill curiosity in people, but even without being truly curious there are sensory exercises that will help one to be more aware and improve mental abilities generally.

One exercise involves a single object such as a paper clip. Using all five senses, name at least 10 or 15 of its characteristics. For example, it is silver, smooth and made of metal. Uses are not considered characteristics; only things you can

awareness abilities at all times.

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com. Lynch, Ph.D., is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults, and is the author of "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness." For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

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HILLS EDITOR • CRAIG LAZZERETTI

THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we she a government without newspapers, or newspawithout a government, I should not hesitate a to prefer the latter."

GUEST COMMENTARY

Landscape fee will keep city streets safe, clean

By Janet Abelson

L CERRITO property owners will soon have the opportunity to vote in favor of parks, landscaping and street lighting — all the amenities that make our city a safe and attractive community.

tractive community.

Beginning Wednesday, all property owners in El Cerrito will receive a ballot in the mail for the Landscape and Lighting Assessment District. This district, or "the LLAD" as it is known, was formed in 1988 to fund the maintenance and operations of our parks, trees and landscaping, recreational paths, sports fields, picnic grounds, tennis and basketball courts, and all of the city's street lighting.

The total cost of providing all these benefits that are vital to the quality of life in El Cerrito is about \$1.15 million each year. Unfortunately, the LLAD generates only about \$750,000 annually, leaving a gap of about \$400,000.

The good news is that we can guarantee sufficient funding for our Landscape and Lighting Assessment District for an additional \$3 per month.

The good news is that we can guarantee sufficient funding for our Landscape and Lighting Assessment District for an additional \$3 per month.

The LLAD ballot will ask residential property owners to approve a modest assessment increase of \$31.50 or \$43 per year, depending on lot size. (This amounts to less than 9 cents a day for smaller lots, and less than 12 cents a day for larger lots.)

Commercial property owners will pay their fair share as well. The LLAD will assess commercial property based on square footage; therefore, larger businesses will pay more, and smaller businesses will pay less.

Since the LLAD was enacted in 1988, the cost of living has increased by 67 percent, while LLAD revenues have stayed the same. This measure will make up for the gap in revenues and allow for future cost increases, not to exceed the Consumer Price Index — subject to a public hearing and the approval of the City Council each year.

Most importantly, LLAD revenues will be placed in a dedicated fund that cannot be diverted to other needs or taken by the state. One-hundred percent of LLAD revenues will be spent on landscaping and lighting in El Cerrito.

I believe the LLAD is a reasonable and affordable way to lock in funding for trees and landscaping at our 14 parks, 4.4 miles of street medians and several miles of recreational trails; street trees along 68 miles of El Cerrito streets; lighting, clubhouses, bathrooms, picnic grounds at parks, tennis and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields; and 1,600 street lights throughout town.

When asked about his support on this issue, one resident said,

town.

When asked about his support on this issue, one resident said,
"Of course I'm for it! How could anyone be against street lights,
parks and trees?" I couldn't agree more, and I hope you feel the
same way about protecting the quality of life in El Cerrito.
Please join me in voting "yes" on El Cerrito's Landscape and
Lighting Assessment District. For just pennies a day, we can keep
our streets well-lit for safety and our parks clean and green.

Janet Abelson is the mayor and a 36-year resident of El Cerrito

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

Stege Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

County Supervisors

John Gloia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530,

510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us. Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510- 528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District

217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Ariington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School boards

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Emergency numbers

El Cerrito or Kensington fire, police or medical: 911. Non-emergency El Cerrito and Kensington Fire — 510-215-4450.

El Cerrito Police — 510-237-3233

Erroemic Police — \$10-233-1214; business line \$10-526-4141. Sewer problems: Stege Sanitary Service. \$10-524-4667.

Libraries

El Cerrito — 6510 Stockton Ave. Open noon-8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays, 1-5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

ensington — 61 Arlington Ave. Open noon-8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 1-6 p.m. Thursdays, 1-5 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

ngton Recreation — Community ster, 59 Arlington Ave. 510-525-

Senior centers

Senior Centers

El Cerrito Committee on Aging — Meets at 3 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Meeser Lane. Ellen Paasch, 510-215-4340.

Christ Lutheran Senior Center — 780 Ashbury Ave. Meets 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays, 510-524-1050.

St. John's Senior Center — 6500 Gladys Ave. Meets 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays. 510-237-3808.

The Open House — 6500 Stockton Ave. Meets 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. 510-215-4340.

Kensington Senior Activity Center —

Meets 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 510-215-4340. ensington Senior Activity Center — Meets 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays at Ar-lington Community Church, 52 Arling-ton Ave. 510-526-9146.

Public schools

Main office — 510-234-3825. Information office: 510-620-2245. www.wcusd.k12.ca.us.

Elementary schools

Castro, 7125 Donal Ave., El Cerrito. 510-234-8200. Fairmont, 724 Kearney St., El Cerrito. 510-525-5235. Harding, 7230 Fairmount Ave., El Cer-rito. 510-525-0273. Kensington, 90 Highland Blvd. 510-526-7343.

Kensington, 90 Highland Bivd: 510-523 7343. Madera, 8500 Madera Drive, El Cerrito 510-235-4499.

Portola, 1021 Navellier St., El Cerrito. 510-524-0405.

High schools

Middle schools

to, 540 Ashbury Ave. 510-525-0234.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hold a democratic and open debate

Hold a democratic and open debate

I am one among many residents who have not decided what to think about the Caruso proposal and the larger issue of preserving/developing the Albany waterfront.
I am, therefore, in favor of obtaining accurate information and maintaining an atmosphere of civility where such information can be evaluated and discussed.
However, both sides are making assertions that have nothing do with facts. The assertion, for example, that the Caruso development will destroy Solano Avenue business is as unfounded as the Caruso assertion that everyone likes Toontown-style shopping mails.
The Sierra Club-led opposition is premised on the assumption that the racetrack is leaving, but where is the hard evidence for this? Caruso promises more tax dollars, but what if retail suffers another downturn?
But our local environmentalists oppose Caruso with a mean-spiritedness that would do Karl Rove proud. What is particularly disheartening are the personal attacks launched against Alan Riffer, Allan Maris, Jewel Okawachi, et al., as enemies of the city already in the pockets of Caruso. All three are good citizens, and these charges are shameful demagoguery. I conclude that those who launch such attacks may have no facts at all in their arsenal.

An attendee at a recent forum proposed a public debate with a neutral moderator. That is an excellent idea, one both democratic and open.

Let both sides go at it face to face, is sue to issue. Let the residents then decide, based on what they know to be true and not what the talking heads on each side would have us believe.

Peter Goodman Albany

eve. Peter Goodman Albany

Measure good for the city

Measure good for the city

As the president of the Madera Elementary School PTA, I would like to encourage a vote of "yes" on the upcoming Landscape and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD) vote in El Cerrito. Ballots will be coming in the mail to all property owners in town beginning Wednesday.

The LLAD program keeps our street lights lit, our parks and recreational facilities open and clean, our trees and creek projects maintained, and our medians and greenways landscaped. The quality of life in El Cerrito depends on it — and the positive effect on our property values is reflected.

The Madera PTA endorses the landscape and lighting measure; and as a homeowner, a mom, and a person who enjoys the outdoors, I strongly support it as well.

Please join me in voting "yes" on the LLAD!

Becky McDermith El Cerrito

Response to letter

As Albany Park and Recreation commissioners, we were surprised by fellow commissioner Brian Parker's attack on the new Commission Chairman Alan Riffer in his letter, "Resigned in protest" (Journal, Feb. 10).

Parker's letter asserts that Riffer has "politicized the commission" and "quash(ed) open debate ... by offering Rick Caruso a

special meeting of the commission." We attended the same meeting as Parker, where the special meeting was discussed, and it was explained that the city had asked Caruso to meet with several Albany commissions before Golden Gate Fields presents any proposal for the waterfront. The meeting was not instigated by Riffer. In the commission meeting that preceded the special meeting, Parker had the opportunity to ask that the meeting date be changed to accommodate his schedule—which the commission agreed to do—and the opportunity to argue that any special meeting should also include representatives for alternate plans for the waterfront.

After the other commissioners present voted down his proposal to expand the special meeting to include Caruso and others, we stated we would be prepared, if requested, to convene a second special meeting for others to present their waterfront plan; Parker asserted he was being "railroaded" and walked out of the commission meeting.

Parker's letter also faults Riffer for allowing the special meeting to be held at City Hall. The commission's clear intent was to allow as many Albany residents as possible to attend a meeting that we expected to be standing-room only. The meeting was as crowded as expected but despite Parker's concerns, un-televised.

We enjoyed serving with Parker and were sorry to see his resignation but even sorrier to see him make this parting and entirely undeserved slap at Riffer.

Roger Carlson John Kindle Geoff Piller Albany The above signers are Albany Park and Recreation commissioners.

Not a Boeing 737

Not a Boeing /3/
What has 50 signal lights, four warning indicators, four direction indicators, eight push buttons, and a voice alert system?

If you guessed the instrument panel of a Boeing 737, you would be close, but you would be wrong. Answer: the preposterous traffic light that sprouted up a few months ago at the intersection of Moeses installed by an overtime crew on a Sunday several months ago and then left idle for several months ago and then left idle for several months of some one thought to turn it on.

I have several questions for our City Council.

Council.
Why does a sleepy little intersection near a public middle school need this? Are there

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and guest commen-taries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone num-ber. All letters are subject to verification.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

Mail: 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA

Fax: 510-262-2776

e-mail: wcletters@cctimes.com
Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the
envelope, at the top of the fax or in the
subject field of the moses.

After many decades, why has in now decided to upgrade two stops an array of ampere-guzzling bead this traffic signal were actually imp why wasn't it turned on immedial Do you really think the people Cerrito are so dim that they are gote for a Lighting and Landscap increase while you are installing made-in-China traffic lights? What faux gaslights, a la Kensington, it El Cerrito look like Jack-the-Ripper don on foggy nights?

Greg Eng

Albany waterfront

Albany waterfront
Reading letters about the potential actrack development has spurred me to win
Must everything come down to salmighty buck? What about our future erations? Might they desire a small sens of undeveloped urban beach? I can be hear them now: "It sure would have some undeveloped shoreline here!"
Consider this possibility: leaving it wise? Yes, Just leave it alone. Don't develop don't come up with some compromise in othing. What a surprise possibility! Ask yourself these important questings? Do we need another mall along in Interstate 80 corridor? Do we need metraffic on that corridor? Did you meed with the state and the state of the sure of the

Basic differences

Publication of cartoons of Muhamiby a Danish newspaper has perform an important service, although it was advertent.

The cartoons were in response light-hearted request for illustrations of children's book on Muhammad Hows subsequent actions by radical Muslims parently carefully planned, have brown attention forcefully the serious sic differences between us and them. They really think they should come what we publish and that violence is proper reaction to anything they disk with. Their calls to main cartoonsis, editors and burn embassies over a official serious are shocking.

Violence is not justified and religis an area where freedom of speech is sential, especially among Muslims belves if they are going to participate individuals in the modern world.

Readers also should know that the lamic press regularly prints grotesque degrading cartoons of Americans, and anybody else they want to, and Shiite Muslims do not ban representation of Muhammad (according to the APROSS M. List Kensing.

sk a librarian for help nd get the answer fast

braries reported that librarians rove and found it too intimilike they were viored to try to do at the desk, or similike to rove."

There is a satisfaction that satisfaction that it is a satisfaction that i

work at the development of the torove.

— From "Roving Reference: A New Approach to User Services" by Martin murtois and Maira Liriano

NE OF THE ASPECTS of being a librarian that I particularly like public service role. I be asked questions, like to help, and those of the main compo-

regardless of all the come across in our computers versus sasorship, fines, bud-think many of us go profession for one asson: We are helpful here is a satisfaction as from answering a no matter the questine straightforward all questions, like

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didea of wandering — ing, as it is called in li-literature — has been going topic of discussion glibrarians. A number aries have staff that

answering a question, no matter the question. Even the straightforward directional questions, like How do I get a library card?

only rove, while others encourage or require reference desk staff to get out from behind the desk to approach their patrons. And the response to this idea has been as varied as the librarians themselves: Some embrace it, and some don't.

As with just about any technique, there are advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is that people like me may get some muchneeded help. Another is that as the librarian wanders, she can get a feeling for who is at the library and what they are doing. She is a bigger presence when she is away from the desk, and I think this is good.

Perhaps the biggest disad-

the desk, and I think this is good.

Perhaps the biggest disadvantage is that if a library doesn't have enough staff to have both a rover and a reference person, an empty reference desk can appear to mean there is no help available. A friendly and competent person behind a desk makes a library seem like a safe and dependable place to go. So, in the ideal situation, there would be a person at the reference desk and another person out-and-about. Perhaps the best approach to roving is to add it to the innumerable methods librarians can use to make sure their library visitors feel welcome.

There is no right answer.

come.
There is no right answer
for how to do this, since each
community, library and librarian is unique. It is the meshing
of these three that makes library work so challenging and
so rewarding.

Reach librarian Julie Winkel-stein at jwinkelstein@aclistein at jwinkelstein@acli-brary.org or at the Albany Li-brary, 510-526-3720, Ext. 17. LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Albany Library

1247 Marin Ave. 510-526-3720 or www.aclibrary.org

Hours: Monday, noon to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, closed; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5

- p.m.

 The Albany Library will present a puppet theeter workshop on Saturdays, Feb. 25 and March 4, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This free two-part workshop will give children ages 8 through 11 the opportunity to make their own puppet and tell their own story. All materials will be supplied, and cookies will be served. No registration is required for this is drop-in workshop, but space is limited. The workshop will be taught by local arist, teacher and storyteller Margo Wecksler. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

 The library's Teen Movie program
- contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

 The library's Teen Movie program continues with a series of films by legendary anime director, Hayao Miyazaki. The next movie in the series, showing Wednesday, March 1, will be "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind," the story of a courageous young woman who must find a way to bring peace to her people in a time of profound ecological devastation. The following Miyazaki films are planned for future Wednesdays: April 5: The Cat Reid. Way 3: My Neighbor Totoro; June 7: Kiki's Delivery Service; July 5: Spirited Away. This program is aimed at mid-

dle- and high-schoolers. All films will be shown in the Edith Stone Room. They start at 5 p.m. and finish up by 7.15 p.m. at the latest. For more infor-mation, visit the Teen Area at the Al-barry Library or contact Teen Services Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

- Librarian Julia Witwer at Ext. 20.

 The library offers free drop-in homework help for students in hird through fifth grades. The homework center is open Mondays and Thursdays (except county holidays), from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Emphasis is placed on math and writing skills. No registration is required. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17 or e-mail jwinkelstein@acilibrary.org.
- Weekly singalongs are held
 Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. by Dale
 Allen Boland. The singalongs are free
 and for all ages. No registration is required. For information, contact Julie
 Winkelstein at Ext. 17.
- Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

 Drop-In knitting groups for all ages are held Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Work on your own project or make pet blankets and children's hats for victims of recent disasters. Instructions, yam and needles are provided for library projects. No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Julie Winkelstein at Ext. 17.

El Cerrito Library

6510 Stockton Ave. 510-526-7512 or www.cccllb.org Hours: Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

 Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome. Following are the up coming book selections: Feb. 28:

 "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; March 28:

 "Queen of Dreams" by Chitra Banerje Divakaruni, April 25: "The Great First Wy Shirley Hazzard; May 23: "Stones for Ibarra" by Harriet Doerr; June 27:

 "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson.

 If you would like to learn about the
- If you would like to learn about the Internet or basic word processing, the library offers hour-long appointments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursday tts Internet docents will help you learn as much or as little as you would like. Call the library to make an appoint-ment.

61 Arlington Ave. 510-524-3043 or www.ccclib.org

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ball Alex Gonzales will perform a magic show on Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Because of the popularity of this show, a limited number of free tickets will be required and available starting Feb. 27. All ages are welcome.

■ A special annual celebration of Dr. Seuse' birthday will be held at the Kensington Community Center at 59 Arlington Ave., up the hill from the Kensington Library, on Saturday at 11 a.m. The party will feature a dramatization of "Green Eggs and Ham," games with prizes, and actual green eggs and ham to eat. Because of the popularity of this event, a limited number of free tickets will be distributed. All ages are welcome.

■ The next meeting of the library's book club will be Monday at 7 p.m. February's selection is Ann Packer's The Dive From Clausen's Pier." Copies of this novel will be held on reserve at the library. Book club meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at the library at 7 p.m.

The library has formed a new knitting club called "Castoffs." The first meeting will be Monday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the library. It will be an evening of knitting, show and tell and yarn exchange. All levels are welcome, and some help will be provided. The club will meet the first Monday of every month at the library at 7 p.m.

Family story times are held Tuesda evenings at 7 p.m. All ages welcome.

- Craig Lazzerett

Library activity items may be e-mailed to journal@cctimes.com or faxed to 510-262-2776.

EL CERRITO/ KENSINGTON SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School

MOUNTAIN BIKING CLUB: Riders from El Cerrito High's Mountain Biking Club will participate in league races in March. The league is looking for a trailer to haul race gear to events. It would like an enclosed trailer, ideally 5 x 8 x 5 tall. A new trailer costs about \$2,000 — any leads on used trailers or discounts would be appreciated. E-mail fritz@norcalmtb.org.

fritz@norcalmb.org.

GYM BAG SALE: The ECHS boys basketball team is selling gym bags. They
are forest green, approximately
19x13x8 inches with a shoe pouch and
water bottle holder. The bags have
"ECHS GAUCHO FAMILY" screened on
the side. Cost is \$20. For more information, e-mail
echsboyshoops@vahee.com

echsboyshoops@yahoo.com.

CANDY SALE: See's Candy Bars are available throughout the school year. Buy a box of 24 bars for \$36. Candy bars will be sold for \$1.50 each. All fund-raising purchases will be credited toward music trips to Disneyland and Reno. Boxes of bars may be custom mixed. For more information, e-mail marilyn_alford@hotmail.com.

Harding Elementary

ICE CREAM SALES: toe cream sales are Wednesday after school in the Harding cafeteria. Audie La Ritta is the loe cream sales coordinator.

SCRIP SALES: Scrip sales are Thursdays from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the Harding cafeteria patio. For participating merchants, wisit http://hardingopta.org/news/42/scrip-sales.

PTA MEETING: The next PTA meeting

will be Monday, March 6 in the Harding library. Child care provided. INTERNAL GENIUS SOCIETY: IGS, Harding's academic after school program, begins Feb. 28. Students receive tutoring in reading or math. Grades 2-3 meet at 2-30 p.m. Grades 4-6 meet at 2-45 p.m. Coordinator: Ms. Aguas, fifth crade tacking.

2:45 p.m. Coordinator: Ms. Aguas, fifth grade teacher.

CONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE: Construction Task Force meetings are Fridays at 8:45 a.m. in the conference room. All parents are welcome. Construction Task force Members: Margare Breeding, Kris Kessler, Mercedes Rodrigo, Lew Brower, Barbara Taylor.

ARTWORK ON WEB: Harding After School Enrichment Program (HASEP) art Instructor Sheryl Gates created an online gallery for drawings by Harding students. Check out The Harding Elementary Gallery: www.artsonia.com

students. Check out The Harding Ele-mentary Gallery; www.artsonia.com UMMAGE SALE: A rummage sale will be held April 29. Please save clean fur-niture and household items in good working condition: clothes, toys, small appliances (coffee makers), small tools and antiques. Proceeds support ar, music and science programs. Bring your items to the school office. Rum-mage sale coordinators: Cathie Gonza-les-Leone, Lisa Bolton and Carla Campbell

Campbell.

Campbell.

Campbell.

Gos Hollywood Auction will be held

Saturday, March 18. Parents are encouraged to ask their employers for donations; personal services are always

welcome (last year, parents donated

massage cortificates and private yoga

lessons). Kid-friendly movies or computer games in good condition, vacation rentals and restaurant gift certifi-

ates are popular too. Auction coordi-ators: Brenda Mitchell and Martina

Portola Middle School

Portola Middle School

JAZZ EXPLOSION: The Portola Middle
School Jazz Bands will present "Jazz
Explosion VI" on Thursday, March 23 at
the Acalanes High School theater in
Lafayette. The bands will be joined by
refurning guests Marc Russo on saxophone and Mic Gillette on trumpet, formerly with the East Bay band "Tower of
Power." Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are \$15 and available by contacting Keith Johnson at 510-703-2794
or at Portolajazz@acl.com. Current
"Tower of Power" lead singer Larry
Braggs, Tal Morris on guitar and retruning keyboard great Frank Martin will
round out the lineup.

Castro Flammentary.

Castro Elementary

Castro Elementary

KINDERGARTEN TOUR: Castro Elemen
tary School will host a kindergarten tou
Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at
7125 Donal Ave, El Cerrito. Familles of
incoming kindergartners are welcome
to attend. The tour will begin in the
main office and continue around the
campus. The PTA will also be on hand
to answer questions. For more information, call Principal Galen Murphy at
510-234-6200.

Madera Elementary

KINDERGARTEN TOURS: Madera will offer a kindergarten tour for parents warnting to learn more about the school on Friday, March 17 at 2 p.m. The tour will include an overview of Madera school, a discussion of the kindergarten curriculum, and a tour of the

classrooms, playground, library and computer lab. The tours will last about an hour, and are for adults only (however, adults and children are invited to attend the Madera Open House on March 29). Those interested should call the office at 510-231-1412, Ext. 0 for an appointment.

Kensington Elementary

Kensington Elementary

GIFT CARDS: Purchase \$20 Peet's Coflee gift cards, and 10 percent of proceeds go back to KEF. Use gift cards at
any Peet's Coffee or shop online. Drop
off or pick up at school. To make
arrangements, contact Victoria Curtis at
510-305-7775 or vicutis@earthlink.net
or Nora Hirose at 510-367-9295.

CARD SALE: A year-round card sale with
five designs created by student artists
at Kensington Elementary will help bereffit its sister school in Baton Rouge,
La, where one-third of the school's
population lost their homes during last
year's hurricanes. The cards are sold in
packs of 12 for \$10. Cards are svaliable
at Aflington Pharmacy, 299 Arlington
Ave., Kensington; and Sotto Voce, 1845
Solano Ave., Berkeley, For more Information, contact Tre Curran at 510-5273834. View cards online at kensingtonSchool.org/upcoming.html

E-mail items for school notes to journal@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-262-2776.

ANY SCHOOL NOTES

gory. Submissions are due March To morom 201.

SENIOR BULLETIN: The February senior bulletin is available in the counseling office, and on the AHS Web site at www.albany.ktl2.ca.us/ahs. To access the senior bulletin, cilck on "Counseling Office," then "College Planning." College, scholarship and financial aid information is included in the bulletin, which includes many new scholarship listings. YEARBOOK PHOTOS: Play sports outside of AHS? Submit an exciting photo to room 214 or e-mail it to absyear-book@gmail.com and you might be featured in the yearbook.

book@gmail.com and you might be featured in the yearbook.
THEATER ENSEMBLE: A mandatory
Theator Ensemble meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. in room 18. The agenda includes important planning for student productions.
ASHLAND TRIP: A mandatory Ashland or Bust meeting crucial for the trip plan is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 at exactly 1 p.m. in room 128. Attendance will be taken.

NEW RECYCLING BINS: The new recycling bins around campus, including the snack bars, are for bottles or cans only.

any Middle School

OST AND FOUND: A barrel full of cloth-ing is located in the lost and found in the Arium, the large room/hall outside the library, if your child is missing eweat-shirts, lackets, PE clothes, etc., please take some time and go through the bar-rel. There is also a special lost and found section in the locker rooms, full of PE clothing.

PE clothing.

YEARBOOK COPIES: The last day to reserve your copy of the 2006 yearbook is Friday, March 3. The cost is \$30. Order

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envelopes are available in the school office.

PTA MEETING: The next PTA meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the library. Fifth-grade parents are invited for an informal informational night about the middle school. The focus will be on transitions from fifth to sixth grade. All are velcome to attend and share your thoughts and insights. The principal, assistant principal, counselors, teachers and parents will be there to talk about the middle school program and transitioning from elementary to middle school.

BIKE RACKS; Students riding blikes to school must bring a lock and lock their blikes in the blike rack area.

FRACK AND FIELD: The last spring sport at AMS is track and field. There will be a short informational meeting for all interested students on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 3:15 in the gym. Permission notes and eligibility forms will be distributed.

Cornell Elementary

Cornell Elementary

SCRIP ORDERS: If you buy scrip or have been thinking about it, please remember that today is the next deadline for submitting your order. If you turn in you order to the school office by the end of the school day, you will be able to pick up your order on the morning of Wednesday, March 1 before school (8:10-8:40 a.m.).

FOOD DRIVE: Cornell has been collect-

ing donations of canned and packaged non-perishable food for its Food Drive since December. Send food with your child when you feel you can. These items will be donated to the Alameda Food Bank.

BOOK Falir: The PTA's annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming up during the week of March 27. Volunteers are needed who: 1) can help sell books during the fair (you would need an hour or more free immediately before, during or after school) and 2) can co-chair the event and learn how to help manage the book fair next year. There is already one volunteer for co-chair next year, but the more, the merrier. Contact Kim Waters at 510-558-9314 or Kim Waters at 510-558-9314

ters at 510-568-9314 or kim wa-ters2002@yahoo.com.

LLY OLYMP(155: The PTA is also look-ing forward to its 10th annual Siliy Olympics, a Saturday fair of outdoor games, a silent auction, food and fun. This event requires many volunteers and fortunately, many continuing parent volunteers are on board. At this point, the Siliy Olympics Committee is looking for volunteers who can design/build a new event or game. If you have an idea or the skills/hools for building, contact Greg Chin, o-chair, at Greg@dracon-sultants.com.

Marin Elementary

SCHOOL PAPER: Much of the Marin School student newspaper, The Dol-

phin, is created by fourth and fifth graders at lunch; the students conduct surveys and opinion polls, draw cartoons, write poetly, and take digital pho tos during lunch. Parents are needed to staff The Dolphin newsroom (Jenny Kubick's fifth grade classroom in Room 17) at lunch from 12:10-12:45. The school would like to have the newsroon open two days a week (any day but Monday). If you can help, contact Karer Larson, parent coordinator of the student newspaper, at 510-558-8906 or Larsonko@mindspring.com.

Ocean View Elementary

Ocean View Elementary

OPEN ENROLLMENT: Between March 1
and March 31, 2006, parents of current
Albany students can fill out an open enrollment form to request another Albany
school for their children. Requests are
honored if there is space available. Parents who wish to continue at the same
school do not need to fill out a form.
These forms will be sent home Feb. 24.
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:
Kindergarten registration for 2006-07 will

be held on Wednesday, March 1 starting at 9 a.m.

Education funders

ALBANY MUSIC FUND: On Feb. 8, the Berkeley Association of Realtors, with Albany parent Yvonne Guyton-Johnson, presented a \$500 check to the Albany Music Fund. This is the first gift of the newly created Youth Arts and Education Fund, and recognizes both the association's commitment to Albany music and arts programs and the entertainment provided by Sam Kessel, Scot Nicol and Matthew Ungson, at the Realtors' December fund-raiser. The fund will be further supported by contributions from members of the Realtors association, and application for grants will be made by schools in Albany, Berkeley, Kensington and El Cerrito.

PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED: Photographers are needed to take publicity and Web site pictures of AHS groups and combos. If you have photographer, Berkeley and Combos. If you have photographs, Bessel Comment of the Photographers are needed to take publicity and Combos. If you have photographs, Bessel Comment of the Photographers are needed to take publicity and Combos. If you have photographs, Bessel Comment of the Photographers are needed to take publicity and Comment.

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GRADES N-8

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BERKELEY 1749 Solano Ave 510-526-0775

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1616 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail them to pmiddings@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680, Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

Coming Up

- Berkeley Rhino Rugby Recruit-Ing boys ages 14-18 for winter/spring season. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 7 p.m., practices starting now at San Pablo Park, Berkeley. No experience required. Rugby is a fast paced game involving running, kicking, tackling. De-talis: 510-466-5113.
- 415-298-7851.

 "Junle B. Jones and a Little Mon-key Business" Feb. 25, 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.; Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave, Berkeley, Ac-tive Arts Theatre for Young Audiences performs family musical based on Bar-bara Park's book about a girl who mis-takenly believes her new baby brother is actually a monkey. Tickets: \$13-\$18, call 925-798-1300. Details: juliamor-
- gan.org.

 Los Amiguitos de la Pena Children's programs at 10:30 a.m., La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley: Feb. 25, Derique, the high tech clown.— March 4, Germar the Magician.— March 18, Orange Sherbet performs songs.— March 25, Lydia Millis' performance features singing games, puppets, children's dances en español. Tickets: \$3-\$4. Details: lapena.org.
- talis: lapena.org.

 Eclebrate Mardl Gras the Cajun way, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St, Berkeley, 3-5 p.m., live music by Call-fornia Cajuns. All-day parades with Mardl Gras carnival beads. Hands-on play with steel drums & more. Free admission. Details: 510-647-1111 or habitot.org.
- habitot.org.

 CAHSEE Prep Classes Saturdays (except Feb. 25) 9 a.m.-12 p.m., through March 18, El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury St., El Cerrito, Kacplan K12 Learning Services gives free prep classes for California High School Exit Exam. Class improves skills in English language arts and math, with small groups and personalized attention. Details: Alison 510-817-3854 or kaptest.com/k12/support/state_assessment.jtml.
- ment_num.

 Car Seat Check March 4, 10
 a.m.-12 p.m., UC Garage, Addison &
 Oxford Streets, Berkeley, Berkeley Pelice Department will check installation
 on childrens car seats. Details: 510-647-1111 or habitot.org.
- Camp Gan Israel Open House,
 March 6, 8 p.m., 2643 College Ave,
 Berkeley. Sponsored by Chabad of the
 East Bay. Day camp is June 28-July
 28, ages 4-14. See a video slide show,
 get questions answered. RSVP: 510 540-5824.
- 540-5824.

 Barkeley Youth Arts Festival —
 March 8-April 1, Wednesdays-Sundays 12-5 p.m., Berkeley Art Center, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley March 8,-6 p.m., opening reception. Theme is "Super Heroes," celebrates achievements of Berkeley High School Arts and Humanities Academy, Advanced Placement art students, includes visual art exhibition, several performing & literary events, workshops. Free admission to gallery & events. Details: 510-644-6893 or berkeleyartcenter.org.
- "Broadway Bables" Winter session runs through March 16, Tuesdays 4-6:30 p.m., Saturdays 12-3 p.m.; Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave, El Cerrito. Judy Rae Whiting accepts applications for "Live at CCCT" youth program for ages 7-15. This



UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIE

JOSHUA FORCUM plays Lear and Elizabeth Granzow is Clarisse
in the UC Berkeley Department of Theater, Dance and Performance
Studies production of Howard Barker's "Seven Lears." Show times
are 8 p.m. March, 3, 4, 10 and 11, and 2 p.m. March 4 and 12 at
Zellerbach Hall. Tickets are \$14 general, \$10 UC faculty and staff
and \$8 students. For these Information, with the total backets had the and \$8 students. For ticket information, visit theater.berkeley.edu or call 510-642-9925.

- talis: 510-524-9132 or coct.org.

 Teen Theatre Conference—
 March 19, 1-5:45 p.m., Berkeley Rep
 School of Theatre, 2071 Addison St.,
 Berkeley. "Improving the Cuality of
 High-School Theatre" symposium presents seminars led by theatie professionals, panel discussions. Details:
 berkeleyrep.org or 510-647-2972.

Music

- Music

 Noon Concert Series UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. Free, Feb. 24, Garrett McLean, Ting Chin & Dickson Mak play Ives, Beethoven, March 1, Kathryn Fang plays Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Messiaen. March 8, Rachel U, Christy Kyong plays Beethoven; Kristine Pacheco, Natasha Ong, Michael Uy, Diana Lee, Erina Ishida play Barber, Ginastera. March 10, Michael Lam, Clarion Tung, Jessie Lee play Dvorak. March 15, Faculty rectlat: Kurt Wellis' The Seven Deadity Sins." March 22, "Elizabeth Elkus Memorial Noon Concert." University Symphony, Umesh Shankar play Mozart. Details: music. berkeley.edu/calendar.
- Sweet Honey In the Rock Feb 24, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$24-\$46; 510-642-9988. Details: calperfs.berkeley.edu.

- Berkeley. Feb. 25, 8 p.m., Guaranteed Swahili. \$12.\$15. Feb. 26, 430 p.m., Joel Dorham Latin Jazz Cotet. \$12.\$15. March 3, 8 p.m., Radiohead Project, Jazz Mafis Trio Adam Theisi,Joe Cohen/Pat Korte. \$12. March 4, 8 p.m., Rhiannon. \$12.\$18. March 5, 430 p.m., Art Lande Trio-Unstandards. \$12.\$18. March 11, 8 p.m., Chase Michaels, \$12. March 12, 430 p.m., Steve Ergutaga & Brian Pardo. \$12.\$15. March 18, 8 p.m., Kudisan Kai. \$12.\$15. March 19, 430 p.m., Bay Area Middle School Jazz Showcase, \$5.\$15. March 19, 730 p.m., Bob Marley Student Ensemble. Free. March 26, 430 p.m., Celia Malherios. \$15. April 1, 8 p.m., Eric Person & Meta-Four, \$12.\$15. April 2, 430 p.m., Enric Person & Meta-Four, \$12.\$15. April 2, 430 p.m., Enric Person & Meta-Four, \$12.\$15. April 2, 430 p.m., Enric Person & Meta-Four, \$12.\$15. S18. Details: \$10.845.5973 or jazzschool.com.
- University Symphony Orchestra March 3-4, 8 p.m., UC Berkeley's Hertz Hall. Features Shostokovich, Prokofiev, MacCallum, Alloy. Tickets: \$3-\$10; 510-642-9988.
- Chamber Music Sundaes —
 March 5, 3:15 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave.,
 Berkeley, San Francisco Symphony members & friends play Copland, Andiasov, Beethoven, more. Tickets: \$9-\$21. Details: 415-584-5946 or chambermusicsundaes.org.
- Classical North Indian Music Concert March 5, 4 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Indus presents bansuri (flute) master Deepak Ram, with Debopriyo Sarkar & Sudev Sheth on tabla. Tickets: \$15-\$20; 925-798-1300. Details: juliamorgan.org.
- gan.org.

 Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble &
 Combos Concert, March 6, 8 p.m.
 & 10 p.m., Yoshi's Jazz House, 510
 Embarcadero West, Oakland, Includes
 combo & big band, original composition by & with BHS alumnus Peter
 Apfelbaum. Proceeds benefit band's
 activities, musical education. Tickets:
 \$15, call 510-238-9200. Details: Lori
 510-527-8245.
- 510-527-8245.
 Big band jazz in Albany March 8, 7:30 p.m., Ocean View Elementary School, 1000 Jackson St., Albany. Albany Jazz Band, part of Albany's Adult Education, perform in concert. Cabaret seating, refreshments, dancing. Free. Details: 510-524-9538 or albany-lazzaband cer.

String Band plays bluegrass. — April 21, Carolyn Magrete plays meditative New Age music. — May 12, Bobby Ingrams combines piano & humor. — June 2, Women's Antique Vocal Ensemble plays Dufay, Obrecht, Isaac, Taeggio, Gabrieli, more. — June 30, Bay Area Classical Harmonies performs Graek & Russian vocal music. Cost: \$15, \$50 for six concerts, \$2 children under 16. Details: 510-528-9146.

- we Haydn Singers in concert —
 March 11, 8 p.m., Church of St. Mary
 Magdalen, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley, Mozart Missa Brevis in F, Haydn
 Part Songs. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Details:
 510-465-4092 or haydnsingers.org.
- Part Songs. Tickets: \$10-\$15. Details: 510-465-4092 or haydnsingers.org.
 "Sounds New" concert March 12, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road, Kensington. Contemporary American Classic music: Bielawa, Cutler, Giesser, Jenks, Gompper, Mahoney. Suggested donation \$10-\$15. Details: 510-524-2912 or SoundsNewUS.org.

 Orrana Recital by Jonathan Dime
- Organ Recital by Jonathan Dimmock, March 12, 6:10 p.m., St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Music of Bach, Buxtehude, Sweelinck. Donation. Details: 510-845-0926
- Morth Berkeley Chamber Music Series March 12, 4 p.m., Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose St., Berkeley, Recital features young violinist Karia Donehew with planist Miles Graber performing Bach, Paganini, Prokofley, Lutoslawski. Tickets: \$12; children free, Details: 510-559-2941 or crowden.org.

- theatreorgans.com/norcal.

 Benefit Recital March 18, 8
 p.m., Crowden School, 1475 Rose St.,
 Berkeley. Soprano Jillian Khuner sings
 works of Barber, Brahms, Puccini,
 Gounod, Granada. Also features
 Berkeley Opera's Alex Kaplan, Finnish
 bartinos Ville Telikki. Proceeds benefit
 Berkeley Community Chorus. Donation: \$30, includes wine & food extravaganza. Tickets/details: 510-801-1718
 or 510-549-1336.
- sion." Ickels: \$\$-\$15, 510-682-9988.

 Organ Muelc at St. John's —
 March 19, 4 p.m., St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave,
 Berkeley, David Rothe performs J.S.
 Bach and Friends. Reception follows.
 Upcoming: May 21, Roberta Gary
 plays Bach. Donation: \$5-\$15. Details:
 510-845-6830.
- Berkeley Symphony Orchestra Concert March 29, 8 p.m., UC planist Garrick Ohlsson, Stuart Canin. Works performed by Schumann, Chowning, Tickets: \$10-\$34, 510-841-2800 or berkeleysymphony.org.
- 2800 or berkeleysymphony.org.

 Cal Performances Centennial Celebration May 12, 7:30 p.m., UC
 Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Cost: \$48\$90. Half price for UC Berkeley students; \$2 discount for UC faculty &
 staff, senior citizens, other students; \$3
 discount for UC Alumni Association
 members. Tickets: 510-642-9988 or
 calberts barkeley edit.

See CALENDAR, Page A7

East Bay parks offer la of volunteer opportun

Park District couldn't offer its wide variety of programs and services without the help of lots of volunteers. And no matter what your interests or talents, there is likely to be a volunteer project that will appeal to you.

Figures for the year 2005 are still being compiled, but the results for 2004 are impressive. In that year, 11,134 volunteers donated a total of 123,026 hours of service. This included the volunteers in the Trail Safety Patrol, the wildlife volunteers who worked on land stewardship projects, the Ivan Dickson trail volunteers, the Parks Express bus program, the annual Coastal Cleanup, Interpretive Service volunteers, and various groups and individuals who completed other regional park projects.

In 2004, 19 Boy Scouts completed their Eagle rank service projects in the regional parks. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who are looking for a service project to meet badge requirements can contact Sharon Saffas at 925-756-0195. Sharon has a long list of good possibilities.

In general, prospective volunteer link at the Park District web site, www.ebparks.org to find out about upcoming volunteer projects. But by way of a preview, here are some possibilities.

The Ivan Dickson program has five upcoming projects from March through October. The Web site will explain when and how to register. Ivan Dickson was a longtime avid hiker in the regional parks, who left a sizable bequest to the district for parkland beautification.

Beach cleanup is needed at various shoreline parks because of damage caused by winter storms, though project dates have not yet been set. Parks where the cleanup is needed include King Shoreline in Oakland, Crown Beach in Alameda, and Miller-Knox and Point Pinole regional shorelines in Richmond. If you'd like to help, phone Sharon at 925-756-0195.

Volunteers will be needed

NED MACK

In 2004, 11,13 volunteers don a total of 1231 hours of servi

community Registratio Ned MacKay wri



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and Me Discovery
24-May 4, Thursdays
m., Berkeley Richmond
unity Center, 1414 Wal
ey, Play, learn & disated, creative, play-

insular living to the control of the

thire Council — March 6, Sibley Auditorium, UC Can Newspapers Survive the Public Interest?" A con-serveen Orville Schell &

Preparedness pre-presented by Ana-acutive Director of

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studio D

y & Sunday, February 25th & 26th 10am - 2pm

510-527-9753.

Poetry Flash — Poetry readings, 7:30 p.m., Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. \$2. Feb. 26, Sarah Arvio, W.S. DiPiero. — March 4, Joseph Campana, D.A. Powell. — March 12, Kate Braverman, Diane dilprima. — March 18, Andrew Zawacki & Andrew Joron, Maxine Chernoff & George Albon, Gillian Conoley & Tessa Rumsey, David Holler & Rusty Morrison. Details: 510-845-7852 or poetryllash.org.

Poetry Express — Mondays, 7

845-7852 or poetryflash.org.

Poetry Express — Mondays, 7
p.m., Priya Indian Cuisine, 2072 San
Pabio Ave., Berkeley. Weekly open
mike hosted by Mark States. Coming
up; Feb. 27: theme night "Hope."
March 6: Nance Wogan. March 13:
Mary Milton. March 20: Tom Odegard.
March 27: theme night "Poems About
Women" & special guest Selah
Geissler. Details: email berkeleypoetryexpress@yahoo.com.

express@yahoo.com.

Book Signing — March 11, 12-2
p.m., The Pasta Shop Fourth Street
Market Plaza, 1788 Fourth St, Berkeley,
Lachu Moorjani, of Berkeley's
Ajanta restaurant, signs his book
"Ajanta: Regional Feasts of India." Detalis: 510-528-1786 or pastashop.net.

Anna's Jazz Island — Island Literary Series, March 19, 3-5 p.m., 2120
Allston Way, Berkeley. Musiclar/poet
Avotoja hosts event, with multiple poests & writers reading their work. Open
mic follows. \$3 cover. Upcoming: April
23. Details: 510-228-6775 or 510-8415299.

Community

Campio & Kidder — Feb, 24, 7
p.m., Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian
Universalists Hall, 1924 Cedar St.,
Berkeley. "How'd You Become Activists? What Now?" presented by
Green Party gubernatorial candidate
Peter Camejo & peace, labor & voting
rights activist Jennifer Kidder. \$10 donation. Details: 510-528-5403.

"Hait! Resistance: — Inside Story
on the Haitian Elections," Feb. 25, 7
p.m., St. Joseph the Worker Church,
1640 Addison St., Berkeley, Features
Duclos Benissoit, President of Federation of Public Transport Workers of
Haiti. Father Gérard Jean-Juste celebrates his release. Music by King
Wawa, Francisco Herrera, Freedom
Song Network. Donation \$5.\$10. Details: 510-483-7481 or Haitlaction.net.

talis. 510-483-7481 or HaitiAction.net.

Special Education Career Fair —
Feb. 28, 8 am.-1 p.m., Doubletree Hotel Berkeley Marina, 20 Marina Blvd.,
Berkeley. Los Angeles Unified School District-sponsored fair aims to recruit Speech & Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, more. Screenings, Interviews, job opportunities.
Registration: Special Education Certified Employment Operations 800-TEACHLA x29177 or email careersin-speci@lauscl.net.

specigiausc.ner.

Hopalong Animal Rescue —
Adoption events. Cats available Feb.
25, 12-3 p.m., Your Basic Bird, 2940
College Ave., Berkeley. Dogs available Feb.
25, 12-3 p.m., PetSmart, 1001
Eastshore Expressway, Albany. Details: hopalong.org or 510-267-1915.

Laist-note Expressway, Albary, Details: hopalong.org or 510-267-1915.

Berkeley City Club Tours — Feb.
26; 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m.;
Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave.,
Berkeley. Free docent-led tours of "little castle" designed by Julia Morgan:
a unique blend of Romanesque,
Gothic & Moorish architecture highlighted by a beautiful tide swimming
pool. Free. Donations welcome. Details: 510-848-7800 or 510-883-9710.

North Berkeley Senior Center —
Activities at 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, Feb. 28, 1:15 p.m., black history
celebration features music, art, poetry,
refreshments. — Tuesdays at 1 p.m.,
Black History Film Series features:
"Freedom Plow," "Rose Wood," "Malcolm X" (documentary). Details: 510981-5190.

St. John's Prime Timers Senior

981-5190.

St. John's Prime Timers Senior
Center — St. John's Presbyterian
Church, 2727 College Ave. Berkeley.
Feb. 28, March 28, 11 a.m., Charles
Fitch shows travel slides. — March 7,
11 a.m., Judy Kuffen, gerontologist,
speaks about "getting older," what
happens when changes start; what resources are available. 12 p.m., birthdays celebrated. — March 14, 10:30
a.m., Dr. Hejen Christensen does

blood pressure screening. 11 a.m., Don Worth leads Current Events dis-cussion. — March 21, 11 a.m., story-teller Luisah Teish tells "Stories for Spring" from around world. Details: 510-845-8830.

\$10-845-6830.

San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, March 2, 7-9 p.m., Organic Beekeeping Talk & Sildeshow with Les Crowder Free.—

March 4, 3-7 p.m., Seed Swap. Bring & get locally saved seeds. Bring seed, envelopes & pens. Gardeners, music, food. Free. Details: Terri 510-688-9178.—

March 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Free Worm Composting Workshop. Details: 510-548-2220 x233.

Blood Experse.

510-548-2220 x233.
■ Blood Drives — American Red Cross. March 3, 10 a.m. 4 p.m., UC Berkeley, MLK Student Union, 5th Floor Tilden Room, Telegraph & Bancroft Avenues. — March 14, 12-6 p.m., UC Berkeley, MLK Student Union, Telegraph & Bancroft Avenues, Berkeley, Experies & P. G. Student Union, Telegraph & Bancroft Avenues, Berkeley, Sign-ups: BeADonor.com (code: UCB) or 800-GIVE-LIFE. — March 21, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Mary's College High School, 1294 Albina Ave., Berkeley, Sign-ups: Carla at 510-559-6247or BeADonor.com (code: SMCHS.)
■ Non-Anesthetic Teeth Cleaning for

Non-Anesthetic Teeth Cleaning for Dogs & Cats — March 4, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., RabbitEARS Pet Supply, 303 Arrington Ave., Kensington, Noninvasive procedure by certified veterinary technician. Cost: \$35 per pet. Appointments: 510-525-6155.

 Study Aboved Betray Citib of

pointments: 510-525-6155.

Study Abroad — Rotary Club of Berkeley offers Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships to young men & women to study abroad, serve as goodwill ambassadors in foreign lands for up to two years. Scholarships begin with 2007-2008 academic year, Applicants must live, work or study in Berkeley, have completed at least two years of college study or have been employed in a recognized vocation for at least 2 years. Application deadline March 14, Details: berkeleyrotary.org or 510-841-2319.

Kensington Community Council

2319.

Kensington Community Council

Annual Spring Party, March 18,
6:30-10 p.m., Kensington Community
Center, 59 Arlington Ave., Kensington.
Includes appetizer buffet; silent auction featuring art, collectibles, services.
Free childicare provided for children
ages 3+. Tickets: \$25. Proceeds benefit Kensington after school enrichment program & recreation programs.
Details: 510-525-0292.

World After (Palitica Crause)

Details: 510-525-0292.

World Affairs/Politics Groups—Meet through March 27, Mondays 10:15-11:45 a.m., Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany, For seniors 60+ years. Refreshments provided. Fee: \$2.50 per session.

Free Tax Return help — AARP Tax Alde tax counseling & preparation service can help with most of tax issues faced by middle—and low-income tax-payers, especially those age 60 and older. Details: 888-227-7699 through April 15, or visit aarp.org/taxaide.

Meetings

BHS Site Council — Meeting, Feb. 28, 4:30-6 p.m., Conference Room or Library, Berkeley High School, 1980 Allston Way, Berkeley, On agenda: update on advisories; safety & attendate on advisories; safety & attend

dance data; small schools data; Academic Choice update; student orientation, registration, scheduling . Details; Jane 510-525-0124.

Jane 510-525-0124.

Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan
Open House — March 1, 7-9 p.m.,
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901
Hearst Ave., Berkeley, Discuss ways to
improve pedestrian access in Berkeley. Refreshments provided. Details:
510-981-7062 or TDD 510-981-6903.

ley, Refreshments provided. Details:
510-981-7082 or TDD 510-981-9802.
■ Public Meeting Notice — March 2,
7:30 p.m., City of Albany Council
Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, Meeting topic: Proposed plan to
locate a Burrowing Owl Habitat on Albany Plateau. Details: 510-528-5780.
■ El Cerrito Garden Club — Meeting, March 9, 9:30 a.m., El Cerrito
Community Center, 7007 Moeser
Lane, El Cerrito Sustainable Gardening & Wine Growing program presented by Ann Thrupp, managing director of California Sustainable
Winegrowing Alilance, & Manager of
Organic Development, Fetzer Vineyards. Refreshments served. Guests
welcome. \$3. 510-526-2976.
■ California Writers Club — Berkeley Branch meeting, March 18, 10
a.m.-12 p.m., Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Evert Loft, Jack London
Square, 98 Broadway. "Raise the Volurne, Get Out the Word: "Jill Lubjin
presents techniques for guerrilla publicity marketing, networking, promotion, Free, Details: Anne 510-420-8775
or berkeleywritersclub.org.

Religion

Religion

"Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality in the 21st Cen-tury" — Conference, Feb. 24, 7 p.m.; Feb. 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berke-ley, Free, Details: 510-849-1206 or clgs.org.

clgs.org.

Kol Hadash Humanistic Shabbat
— Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. Features Madrikha Susan Averbach, commentary by Scholar-in-Residence
Rabbi Sherwin Wine, music led by
Bon Singer, Please bring finger
dessert to share, nonperishable food
for needy. Free. Details: Info@kolhadash.org.

hadash.org.

"Jews In The Modern World" —
Kol Hadash's Scholar-in-Residence
Weekend Seminar, Feb. 24-26, Friday
night-Sunday morning, Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, Led by Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine,
founder of Society for Humanistic Judalsm, & current dean. Saturday
evening dinner & entertainment. Open
to all. Introductory session at Friday
Shabbat is free. Fees: \$40-\$100. Detalls: Bert 415-543-4595 or
berts@@compast.net.

berts@comcast.net.

Contemplative Prayer Disciplines

Morning retreats, Feb. 25 & April
22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., First Presbyterian
Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley.
Learn prayer practices such as lectio
divina & Prayer of Examen. Cost: \$25
per retreat. Details: 510-841-9386 or

First Sunday of Every Month Over 800 Booths of Antiques & Collect At the Former Alameda Point Naval Air Sta Next Show: Sunday, March 5 For more info call \$10-\$22-7500 or go to www.antiquesbythebay.net

■ Sunday at the BRJCC Movies —
"Rashevsky's Tango," Feb. 26, 4 p.m.,
Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley.
Cost: \$5. Details: brjcc.org.

tails: Judy ijporta@comcast.net or 925-376-3908.

■ Tibetan Nyingma Institute — Free workshops at 6 p.m., 1815 Highland Place, Berkeley, Feb. 26, Rosalyn White on "Tibetan Sacred Art." — March 5, Robin Caton on "Wby Meditate." — March 12, Lee Nichol on "Di-alogue of Being." — March 19, Lama Palzang & Pema Gellek on "Cutting Off Negative Thoughts." Details: 510-843-6812 or Nyingmalnstitute.com.
■ Interfaith Families at 14s Movies — "Rashevski's Tango" screening, Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Berkeley-Richmod Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, \$8 admission includes snacks.
■ "Making a Home for God on

cludes snacks.

"Making a Home for God on
Earth: — Women in Habad Hasidim,"
March 2, 7-9 p.m., Richard S. Dinner
Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate
Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road,
Berkeley. Ada Rapoport-Albert speaks

Free.

"Celebrating Dahila Ravikovitch
1936-2005" — March 9, 7-9 p.m.,
Morrison Library, North Entrance to
Doe Library, UC Berkeley. Free.
9/11 and 7/7 — Lecture, March 9,
7-9 p.m., Badè Museum, Holbrook
Building, Pacific School of Religion,
1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley, Jaideep
Singh will speak on "A Cross Atlantic
comparison of the Rising Tides of
White and Christian Supremacy in the
Wake of Terrorist Attacks." Free. Details: 510-849-8225.

talis: 510-849-8225.

Jewish Chesapushik Zerapish Raman Studies of Estrangement and Homecoming. March 11, 2 p.m., Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Reading & discussion series with Naomi Seldman, Director of Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies at G.T.U. Upcoming: April 8, May 6. Free. Pre-registration recommended: Liz 510-524-3043.

■ Jewish Community Town Hall Fo-rum — March 12, 7-9 p.m., El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. "Confronting Anti-Semitism:

See CALENDAR, Page A9



Obituaries and In Memoriam

Janet Sue Ericsson



February is "Good For Your Heart Month"



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NIPPO EUROPEAN MOTOR

Ask the expert: Question: When I hit a pothole what does it do to my car

Answer: What are the consequences of repeatedly driving into potholes is a question almost all drivers in this area should be asking. If you take a look around there are many road obstacles that you can encounter with your vehicle, potholes tend to be one of the worst. They are deep and wide and many times you are unable to maneuver around them. When you drive into a pothole it shakes the entire car and rattles the driver. There are many sorts of damage that result from hitting a pothole. Below I have listed some of the items that are most effected by this type of driving.

- Alignment. This is probably the most common problem that results from driving into a pothole. Once the car wheel enters the pothole and jerks the suspension the alignment is compromised.
- Tires. Tire damage or tire blow outs can be caused by potholes. Especially if you are driving at higher speeds when you encounter one.
- 3. Wheels. Aluminum alloy wheels are very soft and can buckle or twist when forced down into a pothole. Especially at risk are oversize wheels with low profile tires. Once the wheel is bent you may feel a wobble when driving or worse the tire will not longer seat on the wheel rim and can result in the tire dismounting. Unfortunately we see lots of expensive wheels that have been damaged.
- 4. Wheel Balance. Driving into a pothole can knock off wheel weights. This creates a wheel imbalance and will cause a shimmy which can be felt through the steering wheel at higher speeds.

- 5. Suspension. Your car's suspension is there for these is driving situations. However, like everything these compounds wear out. Rough road driving reduces the life expectation your car's suspension. Potholes can bend tie rods, but ball joints and cause undue stress on bushings.
- 6. Struts and shocks. These two items are designed to abs shock from the road. Driving into a large pothole can be strut insert or damage a rear shock. At our shop we have several cars that have had the entire strut tower assemble probably due to a deep pothole or driving up onto a curb.
- 7. Body Frame. In severe cases the frame can bend dame a result of slamming into a pothole at the wrong angle wrong place, wrong time thing. If you hit the pothole certain angle and the wheel cannot rebound the way designed to it can cause the frame to bend.
- 8. Internal Rattles. Driving on uneven payment or into poly regularly will cause the interior components to loosenute begin to rattle. Many of these items are not fixed unfortunately can increase the noise level with passenger compartment.

In closing I will advise that whenever possible as long a safe try and maneuver around potholes, rough pavement large road debris. Your car will thank you for it.

Once again I hope this answers some of the question have regarding your car and potholes.

From: Melissa Holmes, Owner Bob's Volvo-Toyota Spec See our Website for new customer discounts.

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m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

a.m.-8 p.m., Saturlay 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Addison Street Windows Gallery

Through Feb. 24, 2000 block of Addison St., Berkeley, Features exhibition of paintings, drawings, mixed media collages, & sculptures created by toddiers & preschoolers who have participated in Habitot Children's Museum's Drop-in Art Studio, classes, or off-site programs. Details: 510-647-1111 or habitot.org.

Berkeley. Details: 510-644-6893.

La Pena Cultural Center —
Through Feb. 27, paintings by Justin Mata. 3105 Shattuck Ave. — March 2-April 30, lobby, work of Egyption sculptor Ahmed Said. March 18, reception. In cafe, "Los Ojos del Paraiso," works by Cecilia Elvira Garcia. In theater, "International Women's Month: A celebration of Women," apintings/photos by Thea Bellos, Ellen Greene, Gabriela Nunez, Marie-Jose Durquet. Details: lapena.org or 510-849-2569.

849-2569.

**UC Berkeley Art Museum —
Through Dec. 3, "Bancroft Library Centennial Exhibition: A Celebration 19082006." — Through June 24, 2007, "A
Measure of Time: American Art 1900 to
the Present." — Through Feb. 27, "Matrix 219: Wilhelm Sasnal." — Through
April 2, "Banne Dunning: Study after
Untitled." — Through May 21, "Dreaming California: Ruth-Marion Baruch, Bill
Owens and Larry Sulfan." 2625 Durant
Ave. #2250, Berkeley, Details:
Bigliorial Gallery — Through Feb. 28.

**Gloral Gallery — Through Feb. 28.

■ Glorgi Gallery — Through Feb. 28, 2911 Claremont Ave., Berkeley. Len Blau's "Solar World." Details: 510-848-1228 or giorgigallery.com.

Ames Gallery — March 1-April 30, Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 2661 Gedar St., Berkeley. "Focusing on Photography: Vintage Photographs from Our Collection." Details: 510-845-4949 or amesgallery.com.

4949 or amesgallery.com.

"Wild Things" exhibit — March 7-May 14, Tuesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tilden Nature Center, end of Central Park Drive, Tilden Park, Berkeley. See Ritia Sklar's watercolor paintings of African animals & American, European, African birds. April 2, 2-4 p.m., "Meet the Artist" reception. Details: ritasklar.com.

Community Art Gallery — Through March 18, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center lobby, 2450 Ashby Ave, Berkeley, Abstract & figurative artist Ruth Block, scavenger sculptor Gaelyn Lakin are featured. Details: 510-204-1667.

**Berkeley History Center — "Fermenting Berkeley," Through March 25, 1931 Center St., Berkeley, Explores production, sale, social aspects of alcohol in Berkeley from 1870s-1970s. Wets vs. Drys, Berkeley's early prohibition featured, Details: 510-848-0181 or cl.berkeley.ca.us/histsoc/.

■ "Big Dinos Return" exhibit —
Through May 7, Lawrence Hall of Science, One Centennial Drive, Berkeley.
Features robotic dinosaurs. Details:
510-642-5132 or lawrencehallof-

Judah L. Magnes Museum —
Through May 14, "Houses and Housings: Portability in Jewish Faith and Culture." 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Details: magnes.org or 510-549-6950.

Details: magnes.org or 510-549-8950.
■ CSI: Crime Scene Insects —
Through May 29, Lawrence Hall of Science, One Centennial Drive, Berkeley.
Exhibit explores forensic entomology through field & lab equipment, model crime scenes, live insects, interactive displays. 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., tours by M. Lee Goff, Ph.D. Details: 510-642-5132 or lawrencehallof-science.org.

science.org.

Badè Museum — Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Holbrook Building, Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Through March 30, 'Budchist Images' by Jan Eldridge. April 4-June 29, 'Behold: Nude Photographic Work by Dana Davis." Details: Dawn 510-849-8239, — Through January 2007, 'Making Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: Family Religion in Ancient Israel." Details: 510-849-8201.

Health Mational Nutrition Month events —
March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2-6 p.m., Berkeley Farmer's Market, Derby Street &
Marlin Luther King Jr. Way. Cooking
demonstrations, free samples, free
recipes. Cooking demonstrations 3:305 p.m., March 7, Mary Vance; March
28, Chef Michael Bauce. — April 1, 10
a.m.-3 p.m., Berkeley Farmer's Market,
Center Street & Martin Luther King Jr.
Way. Free compost give-away. Bring
your own container, two buckets or
large garbage bags. Details: 510-548-

3333 of ecologycenter.org.

"You are worth it" campaign —
Downtown Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Aliston Way, YMCA's goal is to help those who want to become healthy & active in 2006 to reach their goals. Available; three pools; yoga, aeroblo & water fitness classes; strength training/cardio equipment; personal training; kids' sw/mming leseons; Kindergym; onsite official words of the control of the second of the control of the second of the control of the contro

Support

Support

Widows/Widowre Grief Recovery

Class & Support Group, Tuesdays
March 14-May 16, 7-9 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407
Dana St., Berkeley. Have you or someone you know experienced the death
of a spouse within last couple years?
Find hope, support & successful ways
to process this significant life event.
Workbook: \$5. Pre-enrollment: 510848-6252 x241.

Film/dance/stage

Film/dance/stage

Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center — Feb. 24, 9:30 p.m., King Wawa & the Oneness Kindom Band CD Release Parry, \$11-\$13, — Feb. 28, 8 p.m., Aftora Dance Jesson with Comfort Mensah; 9:30 p.m., Aftora Deat, Kotoja. — Feb. 26, 8 p.m., Flamenco Open Stage, \$10, — Feb. 28, 8 p.m., Cajun dance Jesson; 8:30 p.m., Fat Tuesday, Tom Rigney & Flambeau. \$12. — March 1, 8 p.m., Cajun dance Jesson; 8:30 p.m., Bruce & Lloyd's Tri Tip Trio, \$9, — March 2, 9 p.m., Kiran Ahluwalia. \$13-\$15. — March 3, 8 p.m., swing dance Jesson; 9:30 p.m., Moodswing Orchestra. \$11-\$13. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, Details: \$10-\$55-\$054.

525-5054.

■ La Pena Cultural Center — Feb.
24, 8 p.m., Rising Phoenix Brass Band,
\$12-\$14. — Feb. 25, 8 p.m., La Pena
Community Chorus Concert. \$10-\$15. — March 2, 8 p.m., Alexa Weber
Morales. \$7-\$9. — March 3, 9 p.m.,
Flip Tha Script. \$8-\$10. — March 4,
8:30 p.m., The K.T.O. Project. \$15. —
March 5, 6:30 p.m., Domingo de
Rumba. — March 5, 6 p.m., Tiibute to
Zahra Kazemi & Dr. Hammed Shahidian. \$12. Details: lapena.org or 510849-2568.

■ Sun & Moon Ensemble —

"Luna," Feb. 24-26; 8 p.m., Ashby
Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. A
theatre performance with drama,
dance, humor, giant puppets, masks,
live music. Tickets: \$10-\$15; call 415621-7978. Pay as you wish on Thursday nights. Details: sunandmoonensemble.org.

■ Classical Indian Dance — Feb, 25, 7 p.m., Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2840 College Ave., Berkeley, Jyoti Kala Mandir College of Indian Classical Arts presents "Amit Dhara; Pouring Nectar - An Evening of Odisi Dance." Tickets: \$12-\$18, 510-486-9851. Details: Juliamorgan.org.

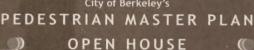
■ "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Neat" — Through Feb. 25, Fridays & Saturdays 8 p.m., Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Dale Wasserman's adaptation of Ken

talis: \$10-824-9132 OF COLUMN.

■ Central Works — Brian Thorstenson's "Shadow Crossing," Feb. 25-March 26; Fridays & Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 5 p.m., Berkeley City Club, 2316 Durant Ave. Immigration: Where do you stand? Tickets: \$9-\$25 sliding scale, \$10-558-1881 or centralworks.org.

See CALENDAR, Page A10







Wednesday, March 1, 2006 7:00 - 9:00 PM North Berkeley Senior Center 1901 Hearst Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709



You are invited to attend the Berkeley Pedestrian Master Plan Open House! Come join us for an evening to discuss opportunities for improving pedestrian access throughout Berkeley and enhancing the Pedestrian Experience.

Project Website: http://www.altaplanning.com/berkeleypedestrianplan/



Contact: Heath Maddox Associate Transportation Planner Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs Tel: 981-7062 Email: hmaddox@ci.berkeley.ca.us

ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Administrative Offices 904 Talbot Avenue Albany, CA 94706 510-558-3750

PRESS RELEASE

Attention Albany Seniors: If you will be age 65 before July 1, 2006, you may qualify for an exemption from the Albany Schools 1999 Parcel Tax (Measure A). You may obtain an application for exemption at the Albany Unified School District Administration Office, 904 Talbot Avenue, Albany or online at www.albany.k12.ca.us. An exemption form must be completed and on file for the exemption to be processed. If you wish a form to be mailed or if you have questions, please call Darlene Mock at 510-558-3766. If you have already received the exemption, you do not need to reapply. The deadline for applications to be returned to the Albany Unified School District administrative office is May 1, 2006.

Legal El Cerrito Journal 2329 Publish February 24, 2006



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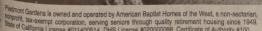
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Parking

Now under construction down the street from Central Perk on San Pablo Avenue, the Cerrito Theater will provide just eight of the 119 parking spaces the venue requires. The theater is expected to open in August.

"(Parking) is getting worse, and it's going to get worse especially with the theater opening," Mansel said. "Even if it's mildly successful, we will have a real parking problem in that area."

A city report says 680 onstreet parking spaces were located within a six-minute walk of the theater — ample parking during theater hours. On Saturday nights, when parking was at its peak, 252 spaces of those spaces were available.

Planning Manager Jennifer Carman said the study was completed three to four years ago. A new study will be completed six months after the theater opens.

Mansel suggested the city designate two-hour parking zones to create more parking turnover and look at the possibility of a parking garage.

In addition, City Councilman Bill Jones said he wanted to look at implementing a moratorium on parking exceptions until the issue is studied. The Planning Commission will discuss the parking issue again, though it's not yet scheduled.

The commission approved Central Perk because it didn't want to hold up the business while the parking issues were settled, Mansel said.

"This business is ready to go



THE OWNER OF NATION'S RESTAURANT in El Cerrito is worried that the new Central Perk coffee shop across the street will create parking problems in the area.

shop across the street will create process. The said. "Let's not hold up allowing this otherwise perfectly great business for El Cerrito."

The 5,000-square-foot business, which is banking on popculture nostalgia for its success, was making progress last week. About a dozen kitschy retro lamps hung from the ceiling while 1960s-era funny foam containers sat neatly with packaged Star Wars figures and bobblehead dolls on shelves.

"We have tremendous support from the city, and we have tremendous support from the community." Sue Fox said. "It's just the man from across the street."

Power, a former member of a

city economic development board, said he believed the lack of parking would prompt people to park at the Nation's restaurant lot and then walk across the street to Central Perk.

He wanted the city to be more aggressive about keeping parking spaces in the area open for customers.

He wanted to see more arrangements similar to Pastime Hardware at San Pablo and Fairmount avenues, which has a parking lot dedicated for employees in addition to a parking lot for customers.

"I'm trying to get a forum to address that issue," he said. "I

think it's a good thing for the whole community. That's why I'm doing it."

The council is not yet scheduled to take up the appeal. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6.

Councilman Jones said the conflict was perhaps inevitable given the influx of new businesses arriving or being approved around El Cerrito Plaza.

"That's kind of the reality of things," Jones said. "We have to try to manage what comes up."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or e-mail alopez1@cc-times.com.

Tax

FROM PAGE A1

FROM PAGE A1

On March 6, the council will also decide whether to place a measure on the June ballot asking voters to amend the city charter that would allow a council pay increase. The pay hike would go into effect in 2009.

Council members are paid \$5 a meeting, but they also have the option of receiving health benefits, Maris said. A committee would be set up to decide how much more council members should be compensated.

The council voted 4-1 to take another step toward placing the measure on the ballot.

Vice Mayor Farid Javandel said he saw the role as a volun-

teer position see people Council for fi

believe a comm sary. He cast the

Ramos

FROM PAGE A1

FROM PAGE A1

Students who attended the party said Ramos may have been trying to stop a fight over a skateboard, but Berkeley police couldn't confirm it.

Three other Albany and El Certito high school students were injured. Ramos and two others were driven to the Albany police station following the melee.

Last week, Albany police chief Greg Bone said the department was looking into its response that night. Friends of Ramos said Albany police at the station interrogated the students and pointed guns at them instead of immediately helping.

Earlier this week, Bone said he had two lieutenants investigating, and was also planning to

In addition, he nications tape was being tran "The proble three officers of ferent parts of in-progress feld said. "It was que chaotic from the said."

recovered, a who was t Highland H The teen

Calendar

FROM PAGE A9

- FROM PAGE A9

 "Plano Lesson" Through Feb. 25, Fridays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley, August Wilson's play focuses upon relationship between siblings, explores African American's fan ily history, 8 relationships, particularly to history of their slave ancestors. Cost: \$7*\$15. Opening/closing Soulfood/Champagne Gala \$25. Details: 510-652-2120.
- Nigah: Indian Classical Dance and Music Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Performance focuses on styles of Kathak & Odissi, with special musical guests. Tickets: \$7-\$15; 925-

- Table Toutous pulsarior juliarnorgan.org.

 Tell it On Tuesday Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 7 p.m., music by Sarah Dominico & Foresta Sieck-Hill begins. Tickets: \$8-\$12. Details: juliarnorgan.org.
- llamorgan.org.

 Alvin Alley American Dance Theater Feb. 28, March 1-4, 8 p.m.; March 4-2 p.m.; March 5, 3 p.m.; UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$32-\$54, 510-642-9988. Details: calperts.berkeley.edu.

 Pacific Film Archive Screenings at 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Digital Film Event with Trinh T. Minh-ha. March 17, 7 p.m., Letter from an Unknown Woman. 9 p.m., Linda Linda. Details: 510-642-1995.
- Traveling Jewish Theatre

March 2-12; Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.; Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 'Family Alchemy: Stories by Malamud and Paley' features 'The Magic Barrel' by Bernard Malamud, 'The Story Hearer' by Grace Paley. Tickets: \$12-\$35. Tickets/details: 415-522-0786 or attit.com.

- "Seven Lears" By Howard Barker, March 3-12, Fridays & Satur-days 8 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m.; Zeller-bach Playhouse, UC Berkeley. Tick-ets/details: \$8-\$14; \$10-642-9925 or theater.berkeley.edu.
- Dance Is Festival March 3-4, 8 p.m., Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave, Berkeley, 16 Bay Area dance groups perform on themes of "Borders" & "Journey," Groups include high school, college, professional

- "Strange Travel Suggestions"—
 Through March 3, Thursdays & Fridays 7 p.m., The Marsh Berkeley,
 2118 Allston Way. Local writer Jeff
 Greenwald's improvised monologue is inspired by vagaries of wanderlust.
 Tickets: \$15-\$22; 800-838-3006 or themarsh.org. Details: 415-826-5750.
- marsh.org. Details: 415-826-5760.

 " 9 Parts of Desir" Through
 March 5; Tuesdays & Fridays 8 p.m.,
 Wednesdays 7 p.m., Thursdays & Saturdays 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays 2
 p.m. & 7 p.m.; Berkeley Repertory
 Theathe's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison
 St., Berkeley. A solo show about Iraq
 that lifts veil on women in war zone.
 Tickets: \$30-\$59. Tickets, details: 510-647-2949; toll-free 888-4-BRTTix or
 berkelevrep.org.
- Aurora Theatre Company "The Master Builder," through March 5; Wednesdays-Saturdays 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.; Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. Tickets: \$28-\$45. Details: 510-843-4822 or
- auroratheatre.org.

 I arget at Family Series March
 5, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Berkeley Rep
 School of Theatre, Nevo Education
 Center, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley.
 Monthly theatre workshops for entire
 family. Upcoming: April 2, May 7,
 June 4, Free. Donation: bring a book
 for John Muir Elementary library. De
 tails: 510-647-2972 or berkeleyrep.org.
- "Zorro in Heil" March 17-April 16; Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays & p.m.; Wednesdays 7 p.m.; Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Sundays 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.; Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre,

- "Hamlet" Th Thursdays-Saturd Theatre, La Val's S Euclid Ave., Berke tragedy gets a ray ment. Tickets: \$10
- "Bright Ideas"
 March 21-April 23,
 8 p.m., Ashby Stage
 Ave., Berkeley. Com
 MacBeth, pesto &c
 preschool to hilatios
 sults. Tickets: Pay W
 Details: shotgunpla
 841-6500.





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WEEKLY SALES CAN BE FOUND IN THE AUTO SECTION ON PAGE D4.

RENTALS COMMERCIAL



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- Option ARM Program 1 375% start rate 0 points 6 033% APR Example \$500,000 loan \$1,695 payment per mo. \$400,000 loan \$1,356 payment per mo. \$300,000 loan \$1,017 payment per mo. "Best cash flow, Best savings"

contingent sale offers: how to keep everyone happy

ase clauses and mis keep sellers shappy BY DIAN HYMER

runs until the closing date. This is advantageous to er giving them certainty that the sale will close.

sale offer to make it appealing.
HOUSE HUNTING TIP: One
way is to include a release clause
in the contract. A release, or kickout, clause allows sellers to continue to market their home in the
hopes of finding a better offer. If
such an offer comes along, the

A contingent sale offer should include a time period of the buyer's home to sell. Some contingent sale

contingencies are structured so that the time period

the buyer, but it ties up the sellers' home without

This means that you'd have to move quickly if the sellers exercise the release clause. You may want to line up interim financing if you're confident that your home will sell and if you don't want to lose the new home to another buyer. This way, you would be prepared to remove your sale contingency and provide proof of your ability to close.

A contingent sale offer should include a time period of the buyer's home to sell. Some contingent sale contingencies are structured so that the time period runs until the closing date. This is advantageous to the buyer, some contingent sale contingencies are structured so that the time period runs until the closing date. This is advantageous to the buyer, some contingent sale contingencies are structured so that the time period runs until the closing date.

closing date. This is advantageous to the buyer, but it ties up the sellers' home without giving them certainty that the sale will close. Sellers might be more receptive if you structure your offer with two deadlines: one for the sale of your home and another for the closing of the new home purchase. This gives the sellers the option to cancel the deal if your home is not sold within a certain time. Ideally, the release clause would expire as soon as you have an accepted offer on your home. This will preclude the seller from selling to another buyer after

Real Estate Spotlight:

Beautiful Craftsman in Piedmont



THE CIRCA 1910 HOME AT 49 ESTRELLA AVE. In Pledmont is surrounded by professi scaped front, rear, and side gardens. It is a short walk from the center of town on one of lovely streets with views of magnificent sycamores enhanced by underground wiring An i porch with windows on two sides leads to a splendid foyer with hardwood floors that are much of the rest of the home. There are four bedrooms and two and one-half baths; one bed to the rear garden. Entertaining is easy as the large living room and dining room flow easily in friendly kitchen. A laundry room and powder room are immediately adjacent to the kitch staircase leads to a second floor landing currently used as a library. There are three bedroor non-wood-burning fireplaces, and two baths on this floor. The home has a detached one-covered carport and more off-street parking.

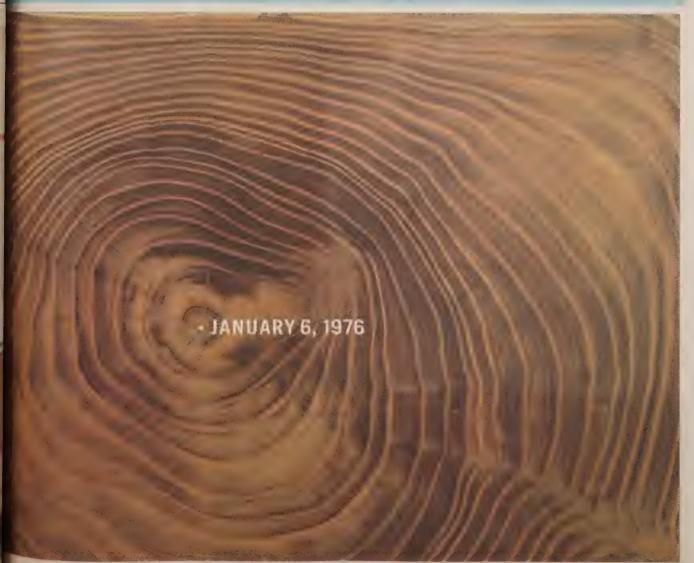
Price: \$1,495,000. Open home Feb. 26 and March 5.

Listing agents: David and Claire Cunningham, Prudential California Realty, 510-428-0900.

gent on the close of that sale.
This is a stronger offer than one
made contingent on the sale of
your home.
THE CLOSING: Sellers who
are entertaining an offer that's
contingent on the close of the
buyer's home sale should make

sure that this sale is not contin-gent upon the sale of yet another property.

Dien Hymer is a Realtor, author and nationally syndicated columnist. She can be reached at 510-339-4777 or at Dian@Dianhymer.com.





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All about ARMs

While the double-digit interest rates that created them are gone, adjustable-rate mortgages still offer financial flexibility for borrowers who need it.

adjustable-rate mortgages still ofter financial flexibility for borrowers
who need it.

When interest rates soared into
the double digits in the early 1980s,
many people were completely
priced out of the home-buying market. Lenders responded with a new
kind of loan that tied mortgage interest to a variable index, such as
U.S. Treasury Bills, in order to go
below conventional loan rates. They
tacked on an extra 2 percent or 3
percent — known as the margin —
to originate the loan and the adjustable rate mortgage was born.
Because their interest rates are
two to three points below conventional fixed-rate mortgages early on
in an ARM, adjustable-rate mortgages are still an option for buyers
stretching their budget to get into
a home. In exchange for a low rate
in the beginning of the loan, you
must be willing to accept a monthly
payment that can fluctuate, unlike
a fixed-rate loan where the monthly
payment that can fluctuate, unlike
a fixed-rate loan where the monthly
payment hat can fluctuate, unlike
a fixed-rate loan where the monthly
payment hat can fluctuate, unlike
a fixed-rate loan where the monthly
payment hat can fluctuate, unlike
a fixed-rate loan where the monthly
payment have, r ARMs don't adjust
every year or every three years and
within proscribed limits, all of which
should be spelled out clearly in your
loan agreement. Because terms of
adjustable loans can be complicated, it's important to understand
how they work. Here are the key
features you should know before
you talk to a lender:

ARM talk

Initial Interest Rate: Starting

ARM talk

initial Interest Rate: Starting te of an adjustable loan; Can be the to four points lower than con-intional 30-year, fixed-rate mort-

margin.

Index: Financial markets rate that measures lender's cost to borrow; used by lender as basis for loan rate; Goes up and down in response to interest rates; best indexes are those that are the least volatile. How long will it take for the rate on the ARM to reach the maximum allowed under the loan program?

Know your limits

The Weekly Sales can be found in the Auto Section on page D4.

- rate mortgage, always look at the worst-case scenario:

 How long will the initial interest rate remain in effect?
- What will the interest rate be after the first adjustment?

■ What will the interest rate be after the first adjustment?
■ How high can the interest rate go if interest rates continue to rise?
■ How long will it take for the rate on the ARM to reach the maximum allowed under the loan program?
An adjustable-rate mortgaage that adjusts only once a year but has a higher initial rate may cost you less than one that adjusts twice a year but has a lower start rate. ARMs that adjust only once a year also have the benefit of enabling you to prepare for monthly payment adjustments. Six-month adjustments can be more difficult to handle.

TIP: Paying points to buy down the initial rate on an ARM may be a waste of money because the start rate is in effect for a short time. If you are going to pay points, use the money to buy down the marcine.

Open Sat & Sun 2-4

Taking a look around the East Bay estate community

BY BOBBIE REID

News and information for and about the area real estate commu-nity and affiliated industries

FOR THE PUBLIC

City Biz
The public is always welcome at the Inforum Meeting sponsored by the Alameda Association of Real-tors. The Iuncheon meeting is 11:30. Thursday, March 2. Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson will give a "State of the City" update. For ticket Information contact Dee Ostrofeky of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Visit History.
Looking for something to do with the kids this weekend? Here's a suggestion for a visit that is interesting and educational. The Meyers House & Garden is an 1897 treasure. It was designed by Henry H. Meyers in the Colonial Revival style. The Meyers family lived in the house for almost one hundred years. This home has become Alameda's first and only house museum. Visit the house on the fourth Saturday of the month, 1 to 4 p.m., call for House Tours costs and information at 510-521-1247.

Qur Houses
Attend "Our Houses" in Alameda. From stained glass to Victorian classics, the Alameda Museum provides lectures for everyone who loves homes and the interior and exterior stories that go with those homes. Prominent Bay

area authors and historians narrate the slide lectures. At the March event what ancient, antique or vintage items for the home will you see? Curator George Gunn promises to amaze the crowd with cobwebbed images not seen for many years at "The Museum Archives Revealed." Join the treasure hunt at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 30. For lecture information call 510-748-0796.

Home Heip
Homeownership help is out there. Many cities conduct programs for first time homebuyers. Down payment and closing cost assistance is possible as long as funds are available. To find out what your city offers check with your nearest Realtor.

One Stop
Consumers can get one-stop service on the Prudential California Realty Web site. You can be preapproved for a loan, obtain relocation help and get selling tips. Check it out at www.PruRealty.com.

Oral Lee
The Oakland Association of Realtors supports the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, The foundation provides college scholarships for high school students. Real estate agents designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. A check for \$4000 was presented to Brown at this year's OAR Inaugural. Brown was accompanied by three of the students. This year's goal is \$50,000. The Chairs for 2006 Lols

BAY EAST

The Bay East Association of Realtors annual Achievement Club Award Luncheon is 11 a.m., Monday, March 27. The program, "Finding Balance in Changing Times" is held at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel. The Realtor Club is an awards program that recognizes successful association members. The Club Task Force offers sponsorships. For

CITY GUIDES

REIO

What to do if you become a trust

UNDATE (known as T-bills) and LIBOR (the London Interbank Offer Rate).

Having it both ways: Lenders have devised many options for combining the affordability of an ARM with the certainty of a fixed-rate loan. A hybrid mortgage, for example, has fixed and variable rates that kick in on a schedule. For example, you might pay a fixed rate (usually a quarter to half percent below prevailing fixed rates) for the loan, then go to an adjustable schedule for the rest of the loan. Another option is to include a clause in your loan agreement that lets you convert your adjustable solan to a fixed-rate mortgage at designated times. You probably will pay a interest rate or upfront fees for a convertible loan, but this can be a good option for a cash-strapped buyer who needs the adjustable's lower rate early on.

Teaser rates: Many lenders offer initial interest rates that are lower than the fully indexed rate (the lindex rate plus the lender's margin, or profit). These teaser or discount rates are for a limited time only after which the fully indexed rate more than the change.

What a could be added to the containing the paperwork involved with a trust. There are two ways to hire abundance of paperwork involved with a trust. There are two ways to hire abundance of paperwork involved in managing a trust. If you are feeling overwhelmed by your new responsibilities, don't worry, following a trust. These teaser or discount rates are for a limited time only after which the fully indexed rate more than the fully indexed rate which the fully indexed rate were the condition of the change.

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find shortage of storage space

In older and newer houses, owners

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS
You and yours are surrounded
by mounds of new stuff you
might not have enough room for,
it seems that few dwellings, new or
old, have enough storage for all the
things the typical household possesses. But you'd think a new
house would have it all over a used
one in this department, wouldn't
you?

one in this department, wouldn't you?

Boyce C. Thompson, editor of Builder magazine, responds with an emphatic "no."

"We sent researchers out to interview eight families who had recently bought new homes," Thompson said. "None of the families had cars in the garage _ they were forced to use this space for storage. We found that many of them purchased in bulk ... and had no place to put the stuff."

The magazine built what it calls "the Reality House" at Disney's neotraditional community Celebration in Orlando, Fia. It was scheduled to be open to visitors during the international Builders Show in mid-January.

what buyers really want, rather than what builders say they want.

"Storage is a big part of our show-home story," Thompson said.

"We have designed an oversized laundry with upper cabinets for bulk storage. And we have finished the space over the garage and left it open for storage."

Gary G. Schaal, vice president of sales and marketing for Orleans Homebuilders, said the demand for storage always exceeds what builders provide.

"Buyers say that there's never enough, even though the amount and variety of storage space has been increasing for the last 15 years, at least," said Schaal, who has been inroleved in new-home building since 1973.

"The closets are never big enough, even if they are his-and-hers walk-ins in the master bedroom, because it seems that the woman wants more storage space then the man," he said. "We are even including walk-in closets in children's rooms."

Finished basements become repositories for things like Christmas decorations. And then there is the garage.

"If the house has a two-car garage, they want a three-car, with one for storage," Schaal said. "If there is a three-car garage, they want (space for four), even if there are only two cars."

Kitchen cabinets have gotten taller and the butler's pantry has been replaced by a full room, he said, "so busy people need only go to the supermarket every couple of weeks and pick up milk at the convenience store when they run out."

Some new construction, particularly active-adult housing built in clusters, doesn't offer much opportunity for storage, said Diane Williams, an agent with Weichert Realtors in Spring House, Pa.
"Storage is more important than ever for the over-55s, because they have no basements," she said. "They look for extra space within their unit, sometimes even a room that they can use for storing suit-cases and the things they've collected over the years."
Cedar closets are hot, and if a house has one, "we mention it on the Multiple Listing Service," Williams said. "It reminds a lot of people of growing up in their parents' nome."

Because they have much less raw space to work with than newhome builders, remodeling contractors must come up with creative ways to add storage.

Jay Cipriani, president of Cipriani Builders, said the issue looms large in every project his company undertakes.
"The question always is how to

See SHORTAGE, Page B4

Bay Area real estate sales hit 5-year low

■ Prices post doubledigit annual gains

Gligit annual gains

Sales of San Francisco Bay
Area homes dropped last month
to the lowest level in five years
as price increases continued to
asse back, according to a report by DataQuick Information
Systems, a real estate information service. It was, the 10th
month in a row of year-over-year
sales declines.

The January sales count was
the lowest for any month since
January 2001 when 5,977
homes sold.

A total of 6,004 new and reselle houses and condos were
sold in the nine-county region
last month. That was down 35.8
bercent from 9,347 for December, and down 20 percent from
7,509 for January last year,
DataQuick reported.

"We won't know for another
couple of months if this is a lull
in the market or part of a longerterm downturn. It's always difficult to project from trends we
see in January and February.
The March numbers will tell us
much more about what's going
on," said Marshall Prentice,
DataQuick president.

The median price pald for a
Bay Area home was \$607,000
last month. That was down 0.3

Sold January 2005 \$534k
Price January 2005 \$607A

Percent change -14.10 per
Price January 2006 \$475K
Percent change -14.10 per
Price January 2006 \$475K
Percent change -14.10 per
Price January 2006 \$475K
Percent change +20 perce

Adecline from December to
January is normal for the season, the company reported.

"We won't know for another
couple of months if this is a lull
in the market or part of a longerterm downturn. It's always difficult to project from trends we
see in January and February.
The March numbers will tell us
much more about what's going
on," said Marshall Prentice.
DataQuick president.

The median price pald for a
Bay Area home was \$607,000
last month. That was down 0.3

Price January 2006 \$607K Percent change +13.70 pe

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Percent change +13.50 percent

percent change +15.50 percent
percent from December's
\$609,000, and up 13.7 percent
from \$534,000 for January a
year ago. The annual price increase was the lowest since
prices rose 13.1 percent to
\$474,000 in March 2004. It's
probable that appreciation will
dip into the single digits during
the next month or two,
DataQuick also reported.

See LOW, Page B4

BOBBIE HEARS

■ The Bay East Association of Realtors presents three special awards for outstanding achievement every year. Awardees included Realtor Melrose Forde of RE Realty Experts and Affiliate Cathy Campbell of HomeGuard Inc. Campbell was voted the Affiliate of the Year. Forde received highest honors as the Realtor of the Year. Tyler Moxley of Alain Pinel Realtors was the recipient of the Rookle of the Year Award.

■ Kathryn Hill, co-broker of Thornwall Properties in Berkeley

spends her winters in Yelapa, Mexico near Puerto Vallarta. She offers her expertise to Realtors and clients seeking rentals or purchases in the area. Visit with her via e-mail YelapaKathryn@yahoo.com or phone at 011-52-322-209-5087. In the spring she migrates back to Berkeley.

LET'S TALK?

sunday

SUNDAY 2-4:30. A sophisticated and the home with stunning Bay views on deal-de-sac close to shops & restaurants, bedrooms, one and one half baths, that indoor/outdoor living! Lovely Remodeled kitchen with granite!
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sunday

SUNDAY 2-4:30. An exquisite three+ m. two and one half bath Mediterranean paralleled charm. Grand formal rooms, drenched master suite with private y and fireplace, and an impressive rspace with gardens, level lawn and new ne patio. I10woodlandway.com Offered at \$1,800,000

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sunday

NDAY 2-4:30. This stately traditional beautifully updated throughout and phonally large gardens with level lawns. four bedrooms, four and one half baths, family room, formal dining room and arage with interior access. A gem! Offered at \$2,800.00



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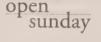
NDAY 2-4:30. Claremont Beauty! Level to bedrooms, den, formal dining, two ached garage, fenced garden. Great lote to shops and BART!

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open sunday

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KAREN STARR Office: 510.339.0400/224 starr@grubbco.com



sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This lovely four bedro two-and-a-half bath home with wonderful indoor-outdoor flow is located in the heart of the desirable Claremont neighborhood.

Offered at \$995,000 View photo tour at johnandjudith.com



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Income property can be a profitable real estate investment

Where should you invest your ney in turbulent times? Many Thoney in turbulent times? Many Threstors are seriously consider-ting income property. Properly priced and well maintained, rental property can be a great way to let others build your equity while you enjoy the tax advantages of de-preciation and let property appre-ciation work for you. But real es-tate agents caution that income geal estate requires a hands-on approach.

What to consider

- - If you hire a property man-

Properly priced and well maintained, rental property can be a great way to let others build your equity while you enjoy the tax advantages of depreciation and let property appreciation work for you.

agement service to handle your rental, add up to 15 percent to the rent to pay for it. And some landlords build a small contingency fund into the rent to cover repairs and times when the property is not rented.

Consider insurance costs.

Most insurance companies offer rental insurance. Think about getting an umbrella policy. It's added insurance, a liability policy.

When you own but don't live in a house, you're not eligible for a homestead exemption. That

means you won't get a reduction of your property taxes.

© Consult the Fair Market
Rental Rate statistics at the Department of Housing and Urban
Development Web site for a
breakdown of average rentals by
number of bedrooms for metropolitan areas across the country.
Track the rental prices for comparable houses for several weeks
to determine what people are
asking.

asking.
SOURCE: www.cbsmarket-watch.com

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shown by appointment

Sophisticated, spacious one bedroom, one bath loft filled with sunlight and dramatic designer finishes. Great room has flexible floor plan, with cozy sleeping/office space above. Large sunny balcony and roof garden. In-unit laundry and storage. Located in the heart of Jack London Square.

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MICHAEL FRIEDMAN Office: 510.339.0400/265 mfriedman@grubbco.com



open sunday

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November



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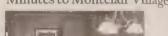
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nvenient location near Redwood Park and just min Montclair Village shopping. Beautiful kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite (Hardwood floors, dual-paned windows, laundry secured parking. Call agent for more information

Thank You Friends & Clients!

Nahid Nassiri has been marketing fine homes and representing buyers in Piedmont and Montclair for over 25 years. Her dedication and commitment to her Clients has helped Nahid consistently remain in the top 5% of Agents nationwide. Again Nahid has had another record breaking 2005 and she would like to thank all her friends and clients for their continued sup-

Passionate about her clients and her business, Nahid's commitment is to always give her best. Don't miss an opportunity to put Nahid's "Best" to work for you!

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reating more storage pace just seems to ake people acquire ore to fill it.



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ball courts are all in the planning. And whatever your family size or budget, chances are you'll find the home you want in this quiet country setting. These traditionally styled homes are built to exacting standards, with quality amenities and a long list of energy-saving features that qualify Valley Glen as an Energy Star[®] and a Gold Environments for Living™ community. Come visit during the grand opening of Wisteria this weekend. We think you'll feel right

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OAKLAND 510.899.8000



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LAFAYETTE 925.258.1111



Magnificent Custom Estate.

Magnificent custom 5 bedroom with flat, pool size lot in Tahoe setting. Top of the line components and finishes. 4850+/-sf. Time to make changes, so call for more information. \$2,150,000



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This newly constructed 4bd/2.5ba contemporary home features gorgeous hill views, large dual pane windows, bamboo floors, a chef's kitchen and a great family or media room.

\$315,000

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Two Large Side-by-Side Lots.
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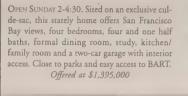
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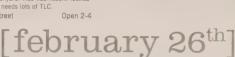




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DRE# 01144055	6.093 30	6.169 30	5 905 30	5 530 30	
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DOC# 6052720	30-yr Fixed 5.875 0.000 5.952 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.250 0.000 6 282 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 6.125 0.000 6.155 30	Pick-A-Payment*** 1 000 0.000 5 990 60	OPEN DAILY 8AM-8PM ***Pot Neg Am/ PMT on \$500K=\$1608
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Connection 866-660-0957	5 625 1.500	5 875* 1.875	5 7501.000	4 950 0.000	15fx5.625apr5.7% 20fx 5 99%20fx 5 99%
DRE# 01220999	5.820 30	6 030 30	6 380 30	6 51030	30fx6% apr6.1 All 0pt to 417K
Main Line-Tavistock Mtge.	30-yr Fixed	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	20-yr Fixed	15-yr Fixed	BEST RATE AND FEE GUARANTEE
B77-876-3600	6.000 0.000	6 125 0 000	5 8750.000	5 500 . 0.000	NO APPRAISAL FEE. MAINLINENATIONAL.COM
DOC# 603 A784	6 069 30	6 152 30	5.966 30	5 614 30	NO RATE LOCK FEE - OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
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388-638-1819	5 625 1.750	5.7501.760	5 250 2 000	1 250° 0.000	LOANS TO \$4M STATED TO 100% OPEN 7
DOC# 603B609	5.760 35	5.870 35	5 490 35	4.890 30	DAYS. INT. ONLY AVAILABLE *pot neg am
Mortgage Market	30-yr Fixed	30-yr Fxd Jumbo	15-yr Fixed	5/1 ARM Jumbo	Great Purchase, Refinance,
300-837-5626	5.9900.000	6.1250.500	5 6250 500	5.990 0.500	Construction, Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans
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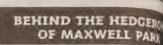
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open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This lovely English traditional is located in the convenient Upper Lakeshore neighborhood near restaurants & shops. Three bedroom, one + bath and family room off the kitchen. Level rear garden.

Offered at \$735,000

The GRUBB Co.

GRUBBCO.COM



Oakland

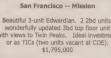
ED KUO 510.339.0400/222 Cell: 510.919.0707 kuo@grubbco.com



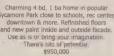
A sampling of our current listings



San Pablo









ONTCLAIR



1986 Mountain Blvd. Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.8400

1430 Leimert Blvd.

Oakland, CA 94602 510.339.4000

OPEN HOMES



\$1,049,000 LAIR AVENUE

00D HEIGHTS \$699,000

482,9000

\$699,000 ALBANY 948 ORDWAY STREET s charming & cozy 2bd/1ba has ng room w/ fireplace, cute kitchen preakfast nook - attached is outside k w/garden area hdwd ffrs & launroom. OPEN SUN 2-4:00 lsha Thierry 812.2910~485.5114 2bd/1ba has

ALBANY
913B ADAMS STREET
Albany Commons Townhome. Spacious newer 3bd/3.5ba townhome on quiet residential street. Maple hdwd ifts, statiless steel appliances, art. garage, Solano Shops! OPEN SUN 2-4:30
Rosie Nysaether
339,8400~339,4567

SAN LEANDRO \$660,000
3465 MONOGRAM ROAD
Bright & spacious newer home w/
high ceilings, in a court yard location,
beautiful howld firs in dining and living
areas. Perfect family home.
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4:30
OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4:30
339.8400~967.9120

SAN LEANDRO \$450,000
525 SOUTH 18TH STREET
This one won't last! All furniture and appliances are included. Tile kitchen countertops and hdwd firs throughout. Nice 3bd/2ba home on a quiet street.
OPEN SAT & SUN 2.4:30

339.4000~435.4846

APPOINTMENT



MONTCLAIR \$1,150,000 2220 Arrowhead Drive Gorgeous New 3+bd/4.5ba Construc-tion in Montclair Hills. Open layout w/ vaulted ceilings, FLR & FDR, cooks kitch, & family rm. Patios & decks for in/out entertaining. 339.8400~339.4550



Nahid Nassiri 339.8400~339.4550

ROCKRIDGE \$749,000-5334 BROADWAY

[UST REDUCED! Charming 3+bd/1+ba craftsman in Oakland's wonderful Rockridge district. Finished basement, updated kitch & bath, refinished hwd firs, new carper & landscaping. Tom Watson 339,8400~899,6364



REDWOOD HEIGHTS
3414 GUIDO STREET
Stunning remodel of Spanish home
on cul de sac known as "The Lane
in Spain." 3bedrooms + studio w/
loft. OPEN SUN 14-30.
Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776

\$700,000 OAKLAND 5214 E. 12TH STREET

Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485-5119

OAK KNOIJ. \$615,000
3425 Mirasol. AVENUE
3bd/2ba home in desirable Oak Knoll
area. Formal living m w/fireplace,
FDR, Beautiful hdwd firs
thruout,
new int. paint, laundry m & 2-car
garage. OPEN SUN 2-4:00 Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119

OAKLAND 1308-1310 96TH AVENUE

908-1510 96TH AVENUE Duplex currently used as a SFR. bd/1ba down. Recently updated, ormai living & dining m, 3 bonus ms. Newer dual paned windows. Cen Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119



MAXWELL PARK \$499,999 4547 SAN CARLOS AVENUE

COMING SOON



NORTH BERKELEY 180 TAMALPAIS \$1,095,000 99 IAMALPAIS inglish country style home in North erkeley, architect designed & built in 225. Stunning living room, 4bd/2ba, panoramic bay views fary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776



\$899,000 **OAKMORE** Coming soon! Upper Oakmore on a large sechuded lot. Beamed ceiling, art deco trim and style, built 1936.

PatriciaBennett.com 482.9000

OAKLAND
2315 87TH AVENUE
Coming Soonl Great investment opportunity. Duplex - 2bd/1ba and
1bd/1ba with an attached two car
garage. Well maintained.
899,6333~485.5119



ADAMS POINT \$360,000 424 ORANGE STREET #204 Sharp 2bd/1ba Condo, Centrally located. Perfect for 1st time buyers. Upgraded kitch, newer carpet + 339.8400~339.5770

OAKLAND \$279,000 3768 HARRISON STREET #301 ng Soon! Sunny unit with bal-New carpet and paint. Easy nute to SF & downtown Oakland. Watson 339.8400~899.6364

COMMERCIAL

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY \$18,000,000

ors only! Resort/ Spa - Call Ken Nwokedi 899.6333~485.5119

Class A Office Space For Lease Individual offices or the entire floor. Walking distance to Piedmont. SF view, close proximity to Montchair village. Mark Attarha 339.4000~339.6300

Are You Newly Licensed?

have the vision to see your success and the ability to make it happen. Call Michael Thompson at (510)339-5775 for a private interview.

Keeping track of the latest reale estate activity? Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on D4.

NEW NORTH OAKLAND/ BERKELEY BORDER LISTING! Open House - Sunday, February 26th, 1-5pm

6524 Whitney Street (Upper Condo) \$685,000



6526 Whitney Street (Lower Condo) \$575,000

"The Whitney House"

Original Charm & Detailing w/ New Kitchen & Baths

Mike McDonald, Realtor® 510-772-7906

New, Modern, Hip Live/Work Aesthetic

mike@m-c-d.net

AWTON

ONLINE TOUR @ www.6524Whitney.com

Ron Kriss, Broker 510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

ORTGAGE#



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STEVEN WALDEN

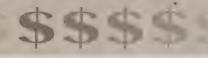
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CASTLE ROCK REAL

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT HOMES & APARTMENTS



528-929

DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLI

Set Fee

339 BROADWAY # 101 ALAMEDA Waterside condo with 2 bed 1 bath, kitch

3915 PATTERSON AVE, OAKLAND

3033 ELMWOOD AVE, OAKLAND

2957 106TH AVE, OAKLAND
Expanded house w/ permits. 4 bed / 3 bath, can be used as a non units. New kitchen w/ granite counter, tile floor, double pane wind garage & new long driveway. Located in good area w/ open space Seconds to get onto freeway.

OVER \$800,000 IN COMMISSIONS (510) 522-9888

HORNWAL PROPERTIES

Open Sunday 2-4:30pm



\$485,000 • 5708 Santa Cruz Ave. Richmon Vistas, Front and Back! Spiffy Annex home with vistas, hardwood flo fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2baths, vintage stove

510.848.1950

THORNWA

maryin gardens

Open Homes





Pt. Richmond

Desirable street in Historic Point Richmond. Spectacular Bay, Golden Gate and San Rafael Bridge views. Split-level home with cathedral ceilings and open floor plan. Two bedrooms, 15 baths. Two-car garage.

616 Western Dr. Jeri Janes

Open Sun 2-4:30 237-1640



Richmond Annex

\$449,000

Classy, small home w/ tastful décor & styling. Useable one-car garage, newly landscaped inviting yard, redone kitchen and laundry w/ new appliances. New windows, beautiful hardwood floors, great Richmond Annex neighborhood.

430 Santa Cruz Ave. Joan Underwood



Great potential in this fixer. Nestled in the Berkeley Hills is a 3-bedroom-1-bath home waiting for renewal! Features include partial Bay view in the room with brick fireplace, dining room with corner cabinets, and harden floors throughout. Giant wisteria and big oak tree in yard.

floors throughout. Giant wis 909 San Benito Rd. Merrilyn Rhodes



Oakland

I bd, I ba condo minutes from Montclair Village. Completely re hardwood floors, beautiful kitchen with new cabinets, stainless & granite counters. Dual pane windows, laundry in the unit. Wa Park, quiet convenient location.
5025 Woodminster Lane #203

Meridee Carter

For more information about these properties visit www.marvingardens.com



IPEN SAT. & SUN. 2-5

MONTCLAIR BEAUTY WITH A VIEW

5941 COLTON BLVD. OAKLAND

OAKLAND
striking 3-bedroom 2 1/2 bath
he boasts beautifully updated
hen & bathrooms, view of San
cisco Bay, gleaming hardwood , an open spaces how pen to an ig patio. All of this combined with location close to the shops of tclair make it unique and special.

OFFERED AT \$1,050,000



JUST LISTED

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



2462 PRINCE ST., BERKELEY

Classic Elmwood home with gorgeous unspoiled Craftsman wood details awaits
your personalization! Four bedrooms, two
paths. Formal dining room. French doors to
wisteria-covered deck & nice yard. Great

> OFFERED AT \$950,000

Open Sunday February 26, 1-4 pm





COMING SOON

CROCKER HIGHLANDS

Magnificent 6 bedroom, 31/2 bath Mediterranean. 1st time on the market in 43 years. Spacious yet comfortable, rich architectural detailing & wonderful outdoor living.

> OFFERED AT \$1,895,000



DIAN HYMER, CRS

DWELL BANKER

us online to view the more than 155,000 homes available throughout california californialnoves.com

PEN HOMES

\$2,975,000 TASHA DR.

SUN 1

510.486.1495 510.486.1495



\$1,425,000

\$1,160,000 RANTE RD SUN 2 - 4:30

510.339.4700



\$1,050,000 TON BLVD SAT/SUN 2 -

OPEN HOMES

PT. RICHMOND \$997,000



\$965,000 1540 VISALIA AVE 4+BR/2 BA Charming Home w/Lrg 2nd Unit. 3BD/1BA plus 1+ BD 1BA. Hdwd ffrs, fml DR. Nr Cafes & Shops. BARBARA LEVY 510.486.1495



\$950,000 2462 PRINCE ST. SUN 1 - 4 510.486.1495



\$887,000 LINCOLN HEIGHTS 8288 SKYLINE SAT/SUN 2-5 3BD 2.5BA Architectural drama in this 1996 contemporary, breathtaking SF Bay views, office & family rm w/built-ins. Lg DARCY DIAMANTINE & LIAT BOSTICK

\$849,000 LAKE MERRITT 347 WAYNE AVE SUN 2 - 4:30 3 BR 3 BA City scape view. Condo, Master 3 BR 3 BA City scape view. Condo, Master with tub niche, Gas Frpl, Marble Bath.

NANCY DICKEY 510.339.4700

Kensington \$775,000

OPEN HOMES



OAKLAND HILLS \$769,000 4379 TERRABELLA PL SUN 1 - 4 \$769,000

OAKMORE \$750,000 4017 OAKMORE RD SUN 2 - 5 510.339.4700

\$749,000 SUN 1:30-4:30 39 DEL MAR 510.486.1495

HERCULES 1015 CRAFTSMAN DR SUN 2 - 4 3 BR 2.5 BA Victoria By the Bay! Upgraded KIT, LR w/FRPL, MSTR BR, 2-GENE DELLA MAGGIORA 510.486.1495



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$710,000 3606 BALFOUR SAT/SUN 2-5 2 BR 1.5 BA Elegant 1920's interior w/FP & HDWD Floors. Beautiful yard! Near 510.339.4700 BONNIE ROSS



LAUREL UPPER \$669,000 4250 MAPLE AVE SUN 2 - 4:30 3 BR 2 BA Laurel Upper-Traditional; 1939 Charm. HWF, FDR, Fam Rm, Inviting front 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

\$665,000 BERKELEY 2306 McGee Ave. SUN 1:30 - 4 510.486.1495

PT. RICHMOND \$649,000

NORTH OAKLAND 884-886 ARLINGTON SUN 2-4:30 GARY & NON! ROBINSON



LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$585,000 3971 BARNER SAT/SUN 2-2 BR 1 BA Built in 1938, lovely architectural detail, formal dining, fireplace, hdwd flrs, built-ins & yard with SAT/SUN 2-5 DARCY DIAMANTINE 510.339.4700

EMERYVILLE \$569,000 4026 WEST ST. SUN 1:30-4:30 3BR/2BA Emeryville border. 1600 sq. ft. condo. Remod vintage beauty. SF, bridge views, garage, morel

CATHERINE VARNAU 510.486.1495

3489 MIDVALE NO. 3

g open houses. 510.339.4700 KELLEY NAYO-CLIETT

\$359,000 TOLER HEIGHTS 9837 LAWLOR
Cottage, Condo Alterna 9837 LAWLOR SUN 2-4:30
Cottage. Condo Alternative. Deck
overlooks Bay. Adorable w/Plus Rm.
GARY & NONI ROBINSON

BY APPOINTMENT





OAKLAND HILLS \$635.000 cul-de-sac. HWF. Gard KAREN LUM 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$479,000 2 BR 1 BA Attic Space and Basement Landscaped Backyard FP, HDWD Floors, EIK, New Paint, & More TERRY ANTHONY 510.339.4700 510.339.4700

LAKE MERRITT \$289,000
Very Sweet Condo.1 BR 1 BA Open Area at Liv/Din Rms. Sep Entrance. 1 - Car Garage. Xtra Off-Street Parking Convenient Location
NANCY DICKEY \$10.339.4700

LOTS

\$379,000 OAKLAND

510.339.4700

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Work with, not against neighbor to resolve encroachment issue

BY THOMAS MUSIL

CORRESPONDENT

Q. About three months ago, I purchased a second vacation home my dream cabin in the mountains.

About one week before the close of escrow I discovered that approximately 700 square feet of the property I was about to purchase had the neighboring cabin's asphalt driveway situated on it.

When the title company found out, they would not issue title in-

times insufficient for my family and guests when they visit. The neighbor has a locked chain across the driveway to deny access.

Do I have a right to use the encroaching driveway? If so, can I legally remove the lock against their will and proceed to use the drive-

will and proceed to use the drive-way?

A. Yes, you have a right to use the encroaching driveway. The en-croaching driveway is on your prop-erty. You have provided your neigh-

bor with an easement on ownership of the property on which he has placed a driveway.

Try to settle this matter by talking with your neighbor and explain that an easement reflects an inter-

See MUSIL

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Two spacious units plus separate studio. Level in to two bedroom, two baths with beautiful updated kitchen; up to two bedrooms, one bath. Close to Monterey Market and BART!

Offered at \$850,000



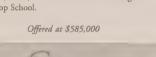
1380 Hopkins St. & 1420 Acton St Berkeley

The GRUBB Co. GRUBBCO.COM

BEBE MCRAE Office: 510.652.2133/415 bmcrae@grubbco.com

coming soon

Charming! Two bedrooms, one bath. Many plusses: two workshops; eat-in kitchen; office/study; formal dining room; indoor garage access; lanai; hardwood floors. Kensington Hilltop School.



The GRUBB Co.

GRUBBCO.COM



TRICIA SWIFT 510.339.0400/333 *

5780 Margarido Drive



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. New on the market OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. New on the market Claremont Pines contemposrary with stunning bay views. One level living with sophisticated floor plan. Sun drenched central garden. Level access from garage. Three bedrooms, two and one half baths. This is a rare find!

Offered at \$1,385,000



ELIZABETH DICKSON Office: 510.339.0400/218 dickson@grubbco.com



Wall was

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A rare Haddon Hill beauty. This sun drenched two+ bedroom, two bath Craftsman offers both vintage charm and the amenities of careful renovation. Featuring many built-ins, grand fireplace, and expansive gardens with fruit trees.

Offered at \$795,000

616. Montelair Avenue Oakland

MARY MERRICK Office: 510.339.0400/315 mmerrick@grubbco.com



open sunday

The GRUBB Co.

GRUBBCO.COM

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This two bedroom, one bath split-level home offers relaxed elegance with dramatic panoramic views of the Bay, San Francisco and Golden Gate, and a wonderful, intimate-yet-expansive feel reminiscent of an upscale resort in the woods. Located on fabled Panoramic Hill, this home is close to town and the University.

Offered at \$695,000

View photo tour at johnandjudith.com



3420 Dwight Way, Berkeley



The GRUBB Co.

GRUBBCO.COM

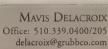
JOHN & JUDITH RATCLIFFE Office: 652.2133/429 johnandjudith@grubbco.com



open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Completely renovated in OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Completely renovated in 2002 these two view homes merge old world charm such as gleaming hardwood floors with the modern convenience of updated kitchens and baths. Enjoy the simply delightful gardens between the two homes and of course the beautiful views, particularly at sunset.

Offered at \$1,250,000







OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Enjoy unsurpassed panoramic San Francisco & Golden Gate views panoramic van Francisco & Golden Gate views from all floors of this dramatic four+bedroom, four bath contemporary home w/superb finishes throughout, gourmet kitchen, three fireplaces, family room, state-of-the art media room, spacious office with view, guest suite & garden patio.

Offered at \$2,500,000



The GRUBB Co. FORD/PLOWRIGHT 510.652.2133/471 GRUBBCO.COM

Berkeley

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Dramatic two-bedroom, two-bath townhouse! Desirable Northside neighborhood, close to the University, shopping and transportation.

Offered at \$535,000 View photo tour at johnandjudith.com



2354 Hilgard An Berkeley

The GRUBB Co. GRUBBCO.COM

JOHN & JUDITH RATCLIFFE Office: 652.2133/429 johnandjudith@grubbco.com

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sparkling four ++ bedroom, two bath Thousand Oaks neighborhood home with partial Bay views, redesigned kitchen, charming deck & garden for entertaining. Whistle clean and fresh!

Offered at \$975,000



513 The Alameda, P.

The GILUBB Co. GRUBBCO.COM

TRICIA SWIFT 510.339.0400/333 tswift@grubbco.com

ENLI

THE PART OF



4195 Maple Avenue, Lincoln Heights nderful 3 bed, 2 bath plus charming custon st cottage w/ half bath. Sunny level lot wit utiful garden, great flow for entertainin Open Sunday 2-5pm

Offered at \$749,000



2630 Carisbrook Drive, Monte

For further details, please cal Vickie Robinson & Aleso Gost Prudential California Realty Office: (510) 464-1207 email: aleso.gourhan@pr

★ NEW OAKMORE AREA LISTING * * COMING SOON * *



4 Bedrooms/ 2 Bathri 3989 Lyman

Price - coming

Traditional Home w/ Original Detailing & Remodeled Eat

- 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms Split level floorplan w/ over 2,000sqft
- Huge park-like backyard w/ a private deck and out-building totally level
 - Hardwood floors, fireplace, soaring beamed ceiling Flexible spaces; home office/inlaw w/ separate entrance
- Spacious remodeled eat-in kitchen that opens right to the garden Remarkably preserved period bathroom w/ all cool tile in place

Lovingly maintained and is in move-in condition
Desirable Oakmore area location that is so close to everything, yet offers a quiet and stress free lifestyle

Ron Kriss, Broker 510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net

ONLINE TOUR @ www.3989Lym^{an.0}

GMAC Real Estate

NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING OPEN SAT. & SUN., FEB. 25 & 26, 2-4:30PM



6321 Ascot Drive, Oakland Offered at \$849,000

Level-living in verdant Piedmont Pines. Well-maintained Traditional with an open floor plan, vaulted ceilings and sparkling Bay views. Enjoy 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a huge family room with wet bar and second wood burning fireplace. Fenced level yards and patios both front and rear. Attached 2-car garage.

NEW OAKLAND LISTING OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2-4:30PM



869 McElroy Street, Oakland Offered at \$489,000

Stylish urban retreat featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, ample living space and dramatic architecture, a renovated kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, vibrant interior paint, a fully fenced lot, master bedroom suite, interior garage access with extra parking behind a secured gate. This property is conveniently located just four blocks to West Oakland BART and is also within easy freeway access to San Francisco. Style, Convenienae, Affordability - just what you were looking for!



510.338.1357

Teri Carlisle

\$949,000

New Piedmont Avenue Area Listing OPEN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2-4:30PM



1069 Rose Avenue, Oakland Offered at \$595,000

A three bedroom, two bath Traditional "fixer" close to Piedmont Avenue shops and restaurants. This house has lots of potential with hardwood floors, fireplace in the living room, rec room, formal dining room, attached garage and a terraced yard with a patio.

Coming Soon in Montclair



6169 Harwood Avenue, Oakland Offered at \$1,795,000

Custom built in 1910 on a prominent corner parcel this Rockridge home show-cases exquisite architectural details, generously proportioned rooms and period elegance. Highlighting this grand home is professionally landscaped gardens with mature trees. The ideal floor plan offers 5BR/3.5BA and the added convenience of versatile lower level rumpus room/media room, au-pair, 1000 bortle wine cellar, and storage rooms (approx 4300 sq. ft. of living space). 2 car detached garage. Convenient location within minutes of College Avenue and BART.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30



\$2,600,000 NDRINGHAM RD.

usic colonial on over 1/3 acre as and play areas. 4+BR/5BA d library & office. Beautiful



\$1,395,000 BERKELEY





BERKELEY \$699,000



RICHMOND \$595,000

2803 MOYERS RD.



\$1,895,000 MONTCLAIR



6829 ELVERTON DR.

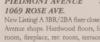


\$1,348,000 MONTCLAIR 32 CHATSWORTH CT



\$859,000 LINCOLN HEIGHTS

4250 LAGUNA AVE





R ROCKRIDGE \$1,895,000

aditional 4BR/4.5BA w/



\$1,195,000

NORTH BERKELEY 31,195,000
2808 HILGARD AVE.
Unique seclusion, exciting potential, incredible views near the edge of UC. Take a SeeMore Tour @ pacunion.com/ginierck, then come see for yourselfl Gini Erck x1339



BERKELEY

2322 STUART ST.

Newly reconfigured for ultimate privacy & parking. Brown Shingle with original details, large kitchen, patio. Michelle Vasey x1359



869 MCELROY ST.

New Listing! Stylish urban retreat vample living space & dramatic

Renovated kitchen, fully fenced lot, attached carrons. Jeffrey, Naidlaman

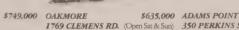
\$489,000

\$465,000

\$1,795,000



OAKLAND



OAKMORE 3053,000
1769 CLEMENS RD. (Open Sat & Sun)
New Listingl Bright & sunny on serene street.
Oak floors & cozy fireplace. 2+ bedrooms, 1
bath. Perfect place to start. Jane Strauch x1332
& Keith Tollas x1382

\$399,000

ADAMS POINT \$399,000 350 PERKINS ST. \$108 Spacious 2BR/ 2BA condominium w/open floor plan. Built-ins, balcony, master bedroom w/walk-in closet. Mature landscaping in common area, security parking. Lee Jacobson x1309

By Appointment

ROCKRIDGE/ELMWOOD \$1,150,000 Six IBR/1BA apartments. Sophisticated updates in 5 apartments. Updated kirchens &c baths. 4 apartments have secluded patios. Convenient to UC, BART, College Ave. Jeffrey Himmed x1307

OAKLAND HILLS \$689,000 RIDGEMONT \$4,700,000 ROCKRIDGE

Dramatic views of the Bay, 3 bridges & Oakland
Zoo. Immaculate 4BR/3BA, family/media room, updated kitchen & baths, 2 car garage. Garden, decks. Gull-de-sac. Donna Costella x1355 cere cellage SBR/5.5BA. Views. David Ichikawa x1331 5BR/3.5BA, au-pair,

COMING SOON

10.339,6460

\$1,150,000 PIEDMONT \$875,000 MONTCLAIR LOT

date in this exten
ge "great room," ing. Large kitchen w/custom hickory cabinets.

Large, level yard. Garage converted to studio
office. Debi Fitzgerrell x1306 Fitzeer bay views. David Ichika

\$625,000

PIEDMONT

\$3,595,000 HADDON HILL \$989,000 cre of level land. Elegant Traditional on Haddon Hill. Updated & spacious 4BR/3BA plus family room. Excellent



Alameda County • Marin County • Diablo Valley • Contra Costa County Napa Valley • Sonoma County • San Francisco • Union Trust Mortgage



This week's Open Home Guide can be found on pages B18 and B19.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

LS 510.524.988 REALTY



Bill & Tracy x33 \$989,000



Coming Soo Jean Auka x16



2027 Otis Drive, Unit F, Alameda
By Appointment
Enjoy Life on the Lagor

Enjoy Life on the Lagoon! Watch ducks swim by from this 2-bd. full-bath unit with lagoon view. I living room and dining one access to the standard of the standard of the swimming pools; 1 covered secure parking.

Arlene Baxter x19

\$415,000

SPECIALISTS IN FINE EAST BAY PROPERTIES

Albany = Berkeley = El Cerrito = Emeryville = Kensington = Oakland = Piedmont = Richmond = and bea

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www.wellsandbennell

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OPEN SUNDAY 2:00PM-4:30PM



Ridgemont. This beautiful maintained home of 3300 square feet has four bedrooms, three plus baths, large family room with built-in TV and surround sound, formal dining room and separate breakfast area, two computer desk stations, huge level yard with patios, lawns, putting green and hot tub, a three car garage, and access to the H.O. pool and spa. One bedroom/bath is fully wheelsheir scenalized.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

Montclair. Set among redwoods. Double size lot of 12000+ sq. ft. Renovated in the 80's, this spacious home has three bedrooms, three baths, in-law/family room, formal dining room, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, two car garage, level yard area and additional deck area. Lot included.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



776 RODNEY DRIVE

\$699,000

San Leandro. Es tádillo Estates! New price on this gorgeous Mediterranean, charming living room and dining room, three large bedrooms, one and a half baths, family room, breakfast room, hardwood floors, a wonderful yard with fruit trees and large patio. Oversized one car garage and lots of basement storage.

Don Dunning 531-7000 x239

5416 BROADWAY, #3

Rockridge. Great location! Sophisticate spacious and sunny two bedroom, one and half bath in three unit building! Living and dining room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floors, skylights, remodeled kitchen and baths with Corian counters and tile, fabulous Redwood deck with view, laundry in unit, garage and second parking space, close to BART, shopping and great restaurants

Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228



2724 MONTICELLO

workshop areas and long drive Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228



1742 I2th AVENUE \$499,000 East Oakland. Three bedrooms, two bath beautifully detailed Victorian built in the 1800.s with updated kitchen and bath. Basement, garage and a small backyard. A must see!

Teri L. Lester 531-7000 x262



yard, huge attic for storage or exp Antoine Pirson 531-7000 x270

COMING SOON

HAYWARD

Don't miss this three bedroom, one bath totally remodeled home situated in Hayward. With an updated kitchen, living room with wood burning fireplace, dining area, large backyard with Jacuzzi tub, and a one car garage, this home is a must see!

Terl L. Lester 531-7000 x262

BY APPOINTMENT



Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



Adams Point. PRICE REDUCEDI One bedroom, one bath 900+ square foot large corner unit condo. Many windows, many upgrades, very light and bright, new carpet, updated bath, and newer appliances in kitchen. Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238

INCOME PROPERTIES

FIVE HOMES PLUS MOTEL ON 12
ACRES \$5,992,296
Commercial property in Northern CA al o nI g 5
C me thy used for five residential/commercial
properties. Excellent development potential for
shopping center, mix-use, home building.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

LAKE MERRITT AREA 4 PLEX \$895,000

Adams Point. Originally a grand four plus
bedroom, four bath home. Tastefully converted
many years ago. This building could possibly be
converted back to a single family or duplex. At
this price it rivals single home prices for the
area. Three units delivered vacant.

Frank Hengers 511,700, v235

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

O A K L A NPDL E X U RS 8 5000

Downtown Oakland. Off Broadway near Jack
London Square. Commercial-Residential zoned.
Two units renovated, two units partially
renovated. Across from public parking lot.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

OaklandEmeryville. First time open Victorian duplex. Four bedrooms, two baths and two bedroom, one bath. Units both vacant after 2/22. Beautiful old-world charm. English style garden. Located off Powell on Emeryville border.

LAND FOR SALE

360 DEGREE VIEWS-ORINDA View of Contra Costa and San Franciso Five plus acres. Unincorporated. Large Zoned AZ-horses allowed. David Hennigan 531-7000 x229

O A K L A N D D E V E 100 Approximately 36,000 sq.ft. level lot. Lotate High street and highway 880. Zood commercial, live-work, mf g Reports Price below comparables, Subject to 1031 Price below comparables, Subject t Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

Three acre development property l Corning, CA off I-5. Currently used as commercially zoned for many uses. Adju-acres also available. Excellent locate for center or big box comps.

MONTCLAIR LOT

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

Great up slope lot, tons of potential! Interpretation of potential for the state of the state of

TAHOE LISTINGS

SOPHISTICATED MOUNTAIN STYLE

Jim Plumbridge/Carla Werner 800-855-30

CLASSIC TAHOE

This is a classic three bedroom, two bath her big and bright living room has a large world fireplace and French doors that take you have a room of the classic states of the cla



1520 Sacramento Street, Berkeley
Sunday 2-4:30 Adorable split-level beauty with pretty level garden! Two large
soms and tiled bath, classy remodeled kitchen, formal dining room and spacious
room with fireplace. New interior/exterior paint and random planked hardwood
Walk to N. Berkeley BART and Monterey Market.

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3560 M'SHERRY WAY, BAY FARM ISLAND



Helen Nicholas, CRS

HERITAGE REAL TAN

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NEXPECTEDLY SPACIOUS BAY VIEW HOME



a Gokhale (510) 428-0757 realtyadvocates.com

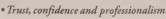
337 MODOC AVE.

This beautifully updated and charmfilled home features random plank oak floors, eat-in kitchen, living and dining rooms with stunning Mt. Tam and North Bay views and a large lower-level patio and garden. There are also several "bonus" rooms perfect for a home theatre and play rooms, + a great workshop. Near Hillcrest Elementary and Holy Names High School. Convenient shopping on College Avenue and in Montclair Village.

For a photo tour, visit: realtyadvocates.com/335.html







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offered at \$649,000

Tracy Tilin McKendell 510.823.6744

961 Arbor Dr. Estudillo Estates San Leandro





Open Sunday 1:30-4:30

STUNNING LOFT-STYLE HOME with PROFESSIONAL RECORDING STUDIO



2,200 Square Feet of Living Space
Large Living Room with Fireplace
Open Kitchen and Dining Area plus Deck
Large Loft Bedroom and Bath with Spa Tub
Excellent Separation of Space
Large Private South Facing Garden

(510) 428-0757 www.realtyadvocates.com

1109 Hearst Ave., Berkeley

Built new in 2002, this 4-level home feature flexible floor plan allowing for up to 3Br/ 2.5Ba. Currently, two rooms on the ground level have been transformed into an engineered sound-proof recording studio and control room plus a large family room.

\$775,000

For a photo tour, visit: realtyadvocates.com/1109.html



Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide starting on B18.

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Amazing View Lot on Skyline Blvd.



36,674 sq. ft. lot w/ Surveys, Soils Report & plans for a beautiful custom Mediterranean Home.

\$950,000

To view more images visit: www.MelCopland.net or call 24 Hour Info. Line

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Miller Warnecke Fourplex



Classic building, perfect for pied-a-terre, Iri, family compound. Large units, ranging up to with hardwood floors, Georgian fireplaces is rooms, breakfast rooms, views. Oversized beautiful mature landscaping. Units have we closets, off-street parking and extra storage, by Miller Warnecke.

Anne Bruff

510 594 7



Spanish Charmer, 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath with family pair suite. Beautiful original details including hardwriftenplace, & built-ins. Large eat-in kitchen Maturel garden w/deck & patio. Detached garage.

Heidi Kearsley

510 594 74

Condominium

23 Monte Vista Ave. a

Bright 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath Condo. Walking distance Piedmont Ave. shops. New Paint. Updated kitchen floors. New carpet in bedroom. Great building!

ANNE BRUFF

Fred Perkins

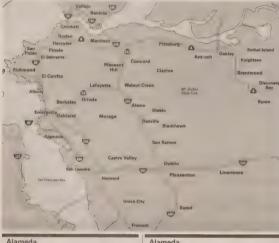
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Weekens OPEN HOMES

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Sun 2-4 510-303-2525	Sun 2-4
Alameda Realty Bette Barr	KeikoSellsHomes.com
\$389,000 325 Kitty Hawk Rd #213 2BD/1BA	\$605,000 3101
Sun 2-4 510-333-8897	Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay F
Alameda Realty Eileen Walker	Harbor Bay Realty
\$415,000 1170 Ninth Street #36 1BD/1BA	\$610,000 334
Sun 2-4 510-919-5485	Sat/Sun 2-4 Bay F
Kane & Associates John Bergman	Harbor Bay Realty
\$425,000 965 Shorepoint Ct. #118 2 BD/2 BA	\$610,000 622 iro
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Kane & Associates Jason Byrley	Harbor Bay Realty
\$449,000 339 Broadway #101 2 BD/1 BA	\$625,000 4 Courage
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Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes John Chang	Kane & Associates
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RVS Realty & Mortgage Kim Henderson	Harbor Bay Realty
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\$530,000 1541 Paru St 1 BD/1 BA	\$695,000 1512 Union
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Harbor Bay Realty Antoinette Paulino	Bickley Real Estate
\$549,000 1812 Wood St. 2bd/1ba	\$698,000 3560 Mc
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\$559,000 1717 Oak St. 2BD/1BA	\$729,000 305 6
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Centennial Real Estate Tony Arruda	Harbor Bay Realty
\$559,900 1001 Shoreline Dr #405 28D/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-364-6795 Keller Williams Stephen Beard	\$739,000 67 V Sat/Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Harbor Bay Realty
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	lyn #104 2bd/2ba 510-501-2570 Phyllis Bettencourt)
\$405,000 417 Evel Open Sun.2-4 Security Pacific R.E.	yn #203 2bd/2ba 510-501-2510 Phyllis Bettencourt	
\$419,000 555 Piero Open Sat/Sun. 2-4 Prudential Claremont	ce #1036 2bd/2ba Nicole Bailey 510-287-187 Bart White 510-869-133	5
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\$699,000 913B Ac Open Sun. 2-4:30 Wontclair Better Homes	dams St 3bd/3.5ba 510-339-4567	
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\$775,000 Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	214 Yale Kim & Ba	3+BD/2BA 510-486-1495 rbara Marientha
\$798,000 Open Sun. 1-4 Red Oak Realty	2025 Prince St	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2112 Edna Olmstead
\$850,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	1420 Acton Street	5BD/4BA 510-652-2133 Bebe McRae
\$949,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Re	1840-42 63rd St.	BD/BA 510-652-6537
\$950,000 Open Sun 1-4	2462 Prince St. North Berkeley	Tom Nemeth 4BD/2BA 510-486-1495
Coldwell Banker \$950,000	31 Avenida Dr.	Marilyn Garcia 4bd/2ba
Open Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realt		925-251-1111 Wendy Moore
\$956,000 Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	1540 Visalia Ave. North Berkeley	4+BD/2BA 510-486-1495 Barbara Levy
\$975,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	513 The Alameda	4+BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Tricia Swift
\$995,000 26 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	Claremont Cresce	nt 48D/2.58A 510-652-2133 The Ratcliffes
\$995,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	84 Plaza Drive	3+BD/2BA 510-652-2133 Bebe McRae
\$1,150,000	One Park Gate North Berkeley Hill	3BD/2BA
\$1,195,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Res	2808 Hilgard	4+BD/3BA 510-338-1339 Gini Erck
	0 San Mateo Road	38D/1.5BA 510-339-0400 Susie Schevill
\$1,425,000 Open Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GM	951 Alvarado Rd.	38D/2.5BA 415-271-4885 annie Anderson
	19 Boynton Avenue	
Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	A	510-339-0400 Anthony Riggins
\$1,639,000 Open Sun 1:30-4:3 Alain Pinel Realto		48D/4.5BA 510-899-8000 Hal Castle
\$2,500,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	1426 Grand View	4+BD/4BA 510-652-2133 Anja Plowright
Castro Valle	y	
\$669,000 Sun 2-4:30 Harbor Bay Realt	3161 Brent Ct Castro Valley	3 BD/2 BA 510-814-4892 Eunice Edwards
Dublin		
\$729,000 Open Sun 1-4pm Prudential	7548 Odyssey Starward	3+bd/2+ba 510-610-1012 Dennis Millard
El Cerrito		
\$565,000 Open Sun. 2-4:30	1120 Norvell Ct	3bd/1ba 510-292-7041

ck	Open Sun 1-4 510-547-1815/9
BA	Coldwell Banker Jerha
00	\$2,975,000 4007 Natasha Dr.
/ill	Open Sun 1-4
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85	\$3,350,000 3695 Nordstrom In
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BA	Oakland
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ht	\$289,000 3877 Howe St. #209
	Open Sun. 2-4:30 Pledmont Are
	Prudential Montclair
	\$299,000 199 Montecito #208
BA	Open Sun. 2-4:30 Adams Pt.
92	Prudential Piedmont
ds	\$310,900 567 Oakland Ave #397
_	\$310,000 567 Oakland Ave #301 Open Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave. 9
	Prudential Piedmont
ba	
12	\$322,000 730 29th St. #109
rd	Open Sun. 2-4 (Studio)
	Red Oak Realty
3	\$339,000 2616 75th Ave
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ba	Prudential Montclair
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ha	\$349,000 596 55th 5t
ba	Open Sun. 2-4
06	Red Oak Realty
er	\$350,000 3489 Midvale #3
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ba	Coldwell Banker
20	\$359,000 9837 Lawlor
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ba	Open Sun 2-4:30 Toler Heights Coldwell Banker Gary & NOT
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Cy	\$369,000 5025 Woodminster La. 28
	Open Sun. 2-4
BA	Marvin Gardens
33	\$385,000 532-30th Street #5
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	Alain Pinel Poattors L Montage
	ence and property delle sue file
3	\$389,000 3800 Maybelle Ave. #11 9
ba	Sat/Sun 1-4
80	Keller Williams

ne Weekly cales can e found in the Auto ection on page D4.

Floorworks

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110	
870 34th St.	3bd/2ba 510-280-2105 Sara Garabedian
425 E. 11th St. #2	4 1BD/1BA
12-5 East Lake	510-547-5970 x55
assciates	Ron Kriss
5476 Wadean Place	ce 3BD/1BA
12430 Melrose	510-531-7000 x270
Innett Realtors	Antoine Pirson
666 Oakland #30 325 Pledmont AVe.	4 2bd/1ba 510-845-0211 Andrea Arata
11043 Novelda D 3-5 Sobrante Park	7 2+bd/1ba 510-845-0211 Deb Graceffa
1518 89th Ave	3BD/28A
/Sun 1-4	415-334-9225
703 Brockhurstt S	t. 3BD/1BA
130-4:30	510-899-8000
M Realtors	Lydia Puller

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1518 89th Ave	3BD/28A
/Sin 1-4	415-334-9225
703 Brockhurstt St.	3BD/1BA
130-4:30	510-899-8000
M Realtors	Lydia Puller
1563 78th Avenue	3 BD/1 BA
Eastmont	510-748-1166
Lindsey Inc. Rolando &	& Coqui Basora
3691 Maybelle Ave	3 BD/1 BA
Oakland	510-814-4863
V Realty	Tisa Beene
22 Moss Ave. #311	2BD/2BA
2-430 Rose Garden	510-338-1330
Ma Residential	Lorri Arazi
1541 Chandler St.	2BD/2BA
13430	510-899-8000
Realtors	Sarah Schisler
875 42nd St Oakland	3 BD/1 BA 510-814-4885 Jeff Goodman
869 McEiroy Mon Residential Jeffi	3BD/2BA 510-338-1385 rey Neidleman
3224 Linden St 24 Townhome	-bd/-ba 510-280-2155 Josh Levine

130-4:30	510-899-8000
M Realtors	Lydia Pulier
1563 78th Avenue	3 BD/1 BA
Eastmont	510-748-1166
Latindsey Inc. Rolando	o & Coqui Basora
3691 Maybelle Ave	3 BD/1 BA
Oakland	510-814-4863
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1541 Chandler St.	2BD/2BA
12430	510-899-8000
Realtors	Sarah Schisier
875 42nd St	3 BD/1 BA
Oakland	510-814-4885
or Realty	Jeff Goodman
	3BD/2BA 510-338-1385 ffrey Neidleman
3224 Linden St	-bd/-ba
224 Townhome	510-280-2155
Marky	Josh Levine
1742 12th Avenue 12430 East Oakland 5 Innett Realtors	10-531-7000 x262 Teri L. Lester
2450 Maxwell Ave Maxwell Park	3bd/1ba 510-849-9900 Scott Ward
345 Lewis St A24 Mandela Pkwy Properties	
2440 Bartlett St.	3bd/1.5ba
Laurel	510-339-9290
Montclair	Gene Boomer
	510-547-5970 x55 Ron Kriss
2800 High Street	2BD/1.5BA
11:30-4:30	510-899-8000
Milealtors	Lydia Puller
125 E. 11th St. #5 East Lake	2+BD/2BA 510-547-5970 x55 Ron Kriss

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	Oakland
1	\$539,000 5372 Brookdale Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 510-522-4449 KelkoSellsHomes.com Kelko McDonah
	\$544,000 2015 E. 28th St. 2+ BD/2 BA Sun 2-4 510-846-1561 Kane & Associates Luisa Marin
	\$549,000 2724 Monticello 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Maxwell Park 510-531-7000 x278 Wells & Bennett Realtors Kate Phillips
	\$569,000 7971 Sanford St 3bd/1ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Oak Knoll 510-655-4884 Keller Williams Realty Marylou Martin
	\$575,000 6526 Whitney St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1-5 Oak/Berk Border 510-547-5970 x55 Lawton Associates Ron Kriss/Mike McDonald
5	\$585,000 3971 Barner 2BD/1BA Sat & Sun 2-5 Lincoln Heights 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Darcy Diamantine
	\$589,000 201 4th St 2bd/2ba Sat/Sun. 2-4:30 Jack London Sq 510-868-1400 Prudential Maria Cavallo Merrion
_	\$589,000 3201 Knowland Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Maxwell Park 510-868-1400 Prudential Berkeley Jake McTigue
_	\$589,000 5416 Broadway #3 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-531-7000 x228 Wells & Bennett Realtors Kate Phillips
_	\$594,000 3533 Oak Knoll Blvd. 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 925-256-1111 Alain Pinel Realtors Jackle Carter
_	\$595,000 1069 Rose Ave. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1357 Pacific Union Residential Francis Heath
	\$599,000 168 Covington Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Bettina Balestrieri
_	\$619,000 2930 Madeline St 3bd/2+ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Laurel 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair Gene Boomer
_	\$629,000 1136 E. 33rd St. 3+BD/1+BA Open Sat/Sun 1-5 Bella Vista 415/706-5252 Zephyr Real Estate Nadia Ruimy
_	\$635,000 1769 Clemens Rd. 2+BD/1BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1382 Pacific Union Residential Jane Strauch
-	\$639,000 884-886 Arlington Duplex Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Gary & Noni Robinson
	\$649,000 4071 Harding Way 2+bd/3ba Open Sat/Sun. 1-5 Upper Dimond 510-428-0900 Prudential Piedmont Tracy Tilin McKendell
	\$649,000 4315 Gilbert Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Bettina Balestrieri
	\$665,000 2957 106th Avene 4 BD/3 BA Sat 1-4 Near Zoo 510-755-4003 Help-U-Sell Alameda Homes John Chang
	\$669,000 2355 Tiffin 3BD/1BA

\$679,000 4250 Laguna Ave. 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-338-1374 Pacific Union Residential Donna DeBardi	\$ O C
\$685,000 6524 Whitney St. 3BD/2BA Open Sun 1-5 Oak/Berk Border 510-547-5970 x55 Lawton Associates Ron Kriss/Mike McDonald	\$100
\$699,000 14 Veteran Way 3+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview 510-338-1378 Pacific Union Residential Jackie Care	\$! 0 W
\$699,000 3201 Guido St 3+bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-482-9000 Montclair Better Homes Patricia Bennett	S: O
\$699,000 4614 Redwood Road 3BD/2+BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Angela Wel Grubb	\$9
\$710,000 3606 Balfour 2BD/1.5BA Sat & Sun 2-5 Crocker Highlands 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Bonnie Ross	\$10
\$715,000 651 Fairview Street 3BD/3BA Open Sun 1-4 Berk. Border -Triplex 510-547-5970 x63 Lawton Associates Keith Sjoholm	\$ 0
\$719,000 10130 Sigourney Ave 3bd/2ba Open Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-9290 Prudential Mary Dresser	\$1
\$720,000 1437 Trestle Glen Rd. 2 BD/1 BA Sun 2-4 Crocker Highlands 510-507-3334 Help-U-Sell Action Properties Therese Herget	\$1
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\$749,000 3597-3599 Fruitvale Avenue 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Dimond 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Anne Van Dyke	\$1
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\$769,000 4379 Terrabella Pl. 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 1-4 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Becky Andersen	01 Th
\$795,000 616 Montclair Avenue 2+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Haddon Hill 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Mary Merrick	OI Pa
\$799,000 3322 Rubin Dr. 2+BD/1+BA Open Sun 2-5 Joaquin Miller 510-418-3639 C21 Heritage Lois Johnson	O
\$799,000 4755 Geranium Place 48D/3BA Open Sun 1-4 925-963-3644 Intero Real Estate Services Shahin Saki	\$1 O
\$849,000 347 Wayne Ave. 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Lake Merritt 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Nancy Dickey	Co
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\$849,000 6321 Ascot Dr. 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sat/ Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1354/1379 Pacific Union Residential J. Flanigan/S. Blasatti	\$1 Su
\$859,000 32 Chatsworth Ct. 4+BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1305 Pacific Union Residential T. Carilsie	\$1 Su Pr
\$865,000 3375 Herrier St 3bd/1.5ba Sun. 2-4:30 Redwood Heights 510-339-9290 Prudential Patricia Makinen	\$1 Or Th
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8887,000 8288 Skyline 3BD/2.5BA Sat & Sun 2-5 Lincoln Heights 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker D. Diamantine & L. Bostick	\$1 Or Th
\$89,500 6833 Moore Drive 3BD/38A Dpen Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-531-7000 x235 Wells & Bennett Realtors Frank Henneter	\$1 Op Pa
Track Individual	- 10

Oakland '	
	2 Houses -339-8900 x246 ffany Copland
950,000 5844 Skyline Dr.	Lot
pen All Day 510	-339-8900 x246
21 Heritage Mel & Ti	ffany Copland
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988,000 2490 Burlington St. pen Sun 1-4 or Sale by Owner	4BD/2BA 510-326-3872
995,000 6443 Hillegass Avenue	3BD/1+BA
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1,095,000 6380 Wood Drive	2BD/2BA
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oldwell Banker	Karen Lum
1,348,000 6829 Elverton Dr.	48D/48A
pen Sun 2-4:30	510-338-1309
acific Union Residential	Lee Jacobson
1,385,000 5782 Margarido Drive	3BD/2+BA
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pen Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	510-339-4700
oldwell Banker	David Eckert
1,500,000 5141 Proctor Avenue pen Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge	4BD/3.5BA 510-652-2133 Helene Barkin
,570,000 2707 Camino Lenada at & Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/38A 510-339-4700 hulte/J. Joyce
,674,000 5801 Buena Vista Avenu pen Sun 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge	
1,875,000 6265 Virgo Road	4BD/3.5BA
pen Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	510-339-0400
ne Grubb Co. .,895,000 6006 Acacia pen Sun 2-4:30	4BD/4.5BA 510-338-1318
2,800,000 5943 Grizzly Peak Blvd	5BD/3.5BA
pen Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	510-339-0400
ne Grubb Co.	JIII Carrigan
1,550,000 1555 Grandview Dr.	5BD/4.5BA
Den Sun 2-4:30	925-381-2211
1,329,000 6363 Skyline Blvd.	3BD/2BA
Den Sun 2-5 510-913-7098;	925-705-0124
oldwell Banker Linda Van Drent; I	Patrick Kelley
Orinda	
	48D/2BA /925-253-4601 rnn Babington

Piedmont		
\$2,600,000 48 Sa Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residen	ndringham Rd.	4+BD/5BA 510-338-1325 Georgia Cornell
\$2,690,000 22 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	Mesa Avenue Ania	5BD/38A 510-339-0400 n Pettit Tunney
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Point Richmon	d	
\$599,000 201-2 Open Sun. 2-4 (DUPI Point Realty	103 Alvarado St LEX)	3bd/2ba 510-215-2807 Karen Kittle
	7 Vine Ave.	2BD/2BA 510-486-1495 bara Marientha
	5 Western Dr	2bd/1.5ba 510-559-2902 Jerl Janes
)2 Seaview Kim & Bar	3+BD/2.5BA 510-486-1495 bara Marientha
Richmond		
\$449,000 543 Open Sun 2-4	0 Santa Cruz	2bd/1ba 510-527-9111
Marvin Gardens \$450,000 5	25 S.18th St	loan Underwood 3bd/2ba
Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Better Hon		510-339-4000 Linda Oliva
	Santa Cruz Ave inex	2bd/2ba 510-502-2012 Mary Canavan
\$495,000 236 Sun 1:30-4:30 Kane & Associates	1 Lowell Ave.	3BD/2BA 510-828-3118 nie & Patrick Ng
-	Commodore Dr	2bd/2.5ba 510-774-4231 Mark Lederer
\$499,900 3233 Open Sun. 2-4 Coldwell Banker Bart	Andrade Ave	2bd/1ba 510-334-5476 opher Casimere
\$529,000 83 Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty	6 Ventura St	3bd/2ba 510-932-3538 lobin Kingsbury
\$540,000 301 0 Open Sun. 1-4 Red Oak Realty	Commodore Dr	3bd/2.5ba 510-280-2121 Katie Lederer
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Around the horn

11-BSAL soccer selections

Tennis film premiere

BSAL soccer

Stars of the week

Albany cleans up in BSAL wrestling

Cougars send 12 wrestlers to title matches, take away nine championships

By Dave Carpenter

The Albany High School wrestling team tallied 170 points to easily win the Bay Shore Athletic League championship at California School for the Deaf on Friday.

And Robby Nichols (275) all won titles for Albany.

The Cougars, who went undefeated in BSAL dual matches, sent 12 wrestlers to the final round, with nine of them emerging as champions.

Daniel Singh (112 pounds), Taylor Raphael (119), Daniel Simonelli (125), Caleb Kahn (135), Gabe Pressnall (152), Tarek Wally (171), Andrei Poleteyev (189), Lucas Wallen (215)



ST. MARY'S Christina Johnson, left, Carmen Aguilar (31) and Cristina Thomas pressure Piedmont's Raphael Cobb. The Highlanders won 78-59.

Still undefeated

Pinole Valley (25-0) gets a big scare from El Cerrito

By Robert Jordan

By Robert Jordan

STAFF WRITER

Jaleesa Ross scored 15 of her game-high 21 points after halftime to help host Pinole Valley beat EI Certio 51-47 in an Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League game.

The win leaves the Spartans (25-0, 13-0 ACCAL) one victory shy from becoming the first area girls team since Berkeley to finish the regular season without a loss. Berkeley ended the 1979-80 season 29-0.

"That game was too close, so I had to step it up," said Ross, who also finished with 10 rebounds, four steals, two blocks and two assists.

Much like it has done all season, Pinole Valley used multiple players to beat EI Cerrito (22-4, 10-3).

With Smith saddled with three fouls in the first half, Pinole Valley had six players score two or more

Emerson was one of three Gauchos in double figures with 17 points.

From there, Ross went to work. The junior opened the third quarter with the Spartans' first six points and assisted on freshman's DeNesha Stallworth's basket to give Pinole Valley as 32-25 lead with 4:34 left in the period.

Ross wasn't finished. She scored the last three points in the third quarter and the first four in the fourth quarter to help the Spartans to a 45-32 lead with 6:54 left.

El Cerrito, which trailed 47-32 with 6:40 left in the game, closed the gap on a 15-4 run to make things close.

Myleka Emerson, Ashley Rollins and Imani Carson all helped the Gauchos rally, scoring five points each in the final quarter.

El Cerrito 56, Hercules 38: The host Gauchos, who took a comfortable of Final year on an 11-2 run to take a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second parameter and well into the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second parameter and well into the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 19-13 lead. The offensive fireworks continued through the second half as a 22-point lead midway through the third period. St. Mary's 59: Behind 20 points, seven assists, seven rebounds and four steals by sophomore Casey Morris, the host Highlanders a 24-point lead midway through the third period. St. Mary's 59: Behind 20 points, seven assists, seven rebounds and four steals by sophomore Casey Morris, the host Highlanders a 24-point lead midway through the third period. St. Mary's 59: Be

El Cerrito High mountain bikers are paving the way

"What's happened is our attempt at identity has worked."

Identity has grown over the course of the club's development. Some student-athletes might describe themselves as football or basketball players. Now, there are also mountain bikers.

"Momentum has been building up," Mejia said. "We used to get all comers and were just trying to get something going."

In October, the club boasted 35 members, with 27 riders who were ready to compete.

With donations and volunteers, the club has been successful thus far. Some of the students didn't have bikes or the resources to ac-

MIKE GALE

quire the necessary equipment. But fortunately the club has been able to provide those items.

El Cerrito belongs to NorCal High School Racing, which was started by Matt Fritzinger from Berkeley.

The league has grown as well. There are more than 300 students from 25 schools competing. Recently, Albany High started a team. "Bringing new clubs into the league just makes us happy," Mejia said.

Competitions are held at six

said.
Competitions are held at six venues throughout Northern California, starting in March. The first competition is in Monterey.
The club has appealed to both boys and girls, with more girls starting to show interest.
"One of the great changes in our

club is a girls coach," Mejia said.
"We have girls on the club who have never ridden, other than a little bit with their dads."

Ann Rivoire has taken on the role of girls coach.
"We end up building these skills over time," Mejia said. "We end up raising the har a little."

FISHING REPORT

THE DELTA

The staff at Gotchal Bait and
Tackle in Antioch said anglers are catching stripers in Discovery Bay using shad and Holland Tract using Rat-I-Traps. Anglers trolling Broken Back Rebels at Discovery Bay are catching about a fish per rod. Sturgeon fishing remains slow in the Delta with only the occasional shaker being had. Sturgeon anglers are heading to Grizzly Bay or Honker Bay to catch the diamondbacks.

Tim Alexander caught a 9-pound striper on blood worms at Jersey Igsland, and Jason Robello of Antioch caught a 19-inch, 4-5-pound black bass at Riverview Lodge on minnows.

THE LAKES

LAKE CHABOT, CASTRO VALLEY: The staff at Lake Chabot reported bait fishing for trout has
picked up. Until this week, anglers
have been averaging 1-2 fish per
rod. This week, reports have
jumped to 2-3 fish. Most of the fish
are being taken near Coots Landing
and Indian Cove. There have not
been any reports from trollers, but
expect it to pick up with the clearer
water.

expect if to pick up wan the clears, water.

The bass bite has been good, especially for this time of year. They are in a pre-spawn mode and are taking kindly to split-shots and drop-shots. Ryan Thoni of Castro Valley caught a 4.5-pound large , mouth near Honker Bay on a crankbait. He also reported several other fish he hooked on a drop-shot ric.

rig.

There have not been any reports of cattish lately, but that doesn't mean they can't be caught. At this time of year, they tend to be in deep water, usually 20-35 feet deep and stuggish. Fish with an open bail and let them take it. Sardines and chicken livers are the recommended bals.

chloken livers are included.

LOS VAQUEROS, BRENTWOOD: The staff at Los Vaqueros said the trout tend to be near the surface or in shallower water, particularly in the mornings and on days when there's cloud cover or even light rain. The best spots seem to be the Rock Wall, Oak Point and anywhere in between. The water is deeper there, and even on sunny days it sees a decent amount of action. Some anglers are reporting im-

first round of the BSAL playoffs Tuesday at Alameda High

Tuesday at Alameda High School.

Led by Nick Bailey's game-high 15 points, the Pilots (20-7) broke the game open in the second period, shooting 7-for-8 from the field and taking a 34-17 lead at the half.

The Cougars' Zack Babitt (12 points) led Albany (10-17). The Cougars got to the free-throw line 35 times, converting 27.

Albany 60, St. Elizabeth 56:
The Cougars finished the BSAL regular-season with a 6-6 record as they edged the visiting Mustangs on Friday. Andre Gumina had a team-high 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and teammate Josh Olson nearly had a double-double with 12 points and nine rebounds.

St. Mary's 59, Pledmont 47:

Boys FROM PAGE 1



proved success when using an attractant. Soaking your bait or lure in a cup with some attractant can get the job done. Stick to bait fishing (PowerBait or worms) as anglers using lures haven't turned in a lot of positive reports.

Trolling for trout was still productive, although not the surefire way to catch fish it has been in previous weeks. That said, nobody got skunked and a few fish upwards of 3 pounds were reported. Small flashers, Needlefish, Kastmasters and Panther Martins all fit into the style of tackle angiers will want on the water. Morning is probably the best bet as the wind tends to be calmer. If there's some fog or cloud cover, troil the surface, Jedd Zizilevskas took a 5.37-pound limit of trout using a wedding ing/flasher combo along the eastern shoreline and into South Cove.

SAN PABLO RESERVOIR, EL

combo along the eastern shoreline and into South Cove.

SAN PABLO RESERVOIR, EL

SOBRANTE: The staff at San Pablo Reservoir said opening weekend was pretty much rained out, but an-glers still managed to catch fish Monday. Water clarity was not ideal, especially near the shoreline and in most coves, but anglers ignored the average conditions and went on to catch fish anyway. There weren't many catflish or bass caught, but a few anglers reported a decent crappie bite. One angler even reported seeing a sturgeon. The visiting Panthers clinched the No. 1 seed in this week's BSAL playoffs with this victory on Friday. Rolando Oliver paced St. Mary's, which took a 33-15 halftime lead, with 15 points.

De Anza 91, Berkeley 55: The visiting Yellow Jackets (5-8 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League) fell behind 42-29 in the second quarter Tuesday and were unable to recover against the league-leading Dons.

Pinole Valley 69, El Cerrito 64: The host Gauchos (13-11, 8-5 ACCAL) led by two points entering the fourth quarter Tuesday, but the Spartans outscored them 26-19 in the final frame. Darnell Quinney and Greg Brizendine both had 13 points for the Gauchos.

Trout anglers from the shore did OK on baits heavily soaked in attractants. As far as balt goes, the majority of action came on rainbow or white dough baits and/or night crawlers and marshmallows. It's hard to say where the majority of the confirmed bites came from, but the main recreation area and the pines are always recommended. Things will start to shape up in the coming weeks as anglers hone in on where the fish are.

One troller left around 1:30 p.m. on Saturday with a limit of trout, with two of the five being bigger than 3 pounds. He said he trolled near the dara and into Scow Canyon with a red and silver Needlefish chasing a tiny set of multi-colored flashers. Trolling was a little tricky with the water clarity, but no one reported the fish as being all that deep. Anglers will be best off flishing from the surface down to 15 feet.

LAFAYETTE: The staff at Lafavette

8. Lafayette Reservoir — Anglers can catch catfish, trout, bass.

down to 15 feet.

LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR,

LAFAYETTE: The staff at Lafayette
Reservoir said trout and bass fishing remain very good. Trout and
bass are being caught on worms
and PowerBalt, and catflish are being caught on fish liver. A 5-pound
trout was caught Wednesday morn
ing. Fishing should improve as the
water becomes clearer.

— Compiler

— Compiler

Richmond 74, Berkeley 72: The host Yellow Jackets fell on a game-winning shot by the Oilers' Leslie Hudson on Feb. 16.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Pinole Valley	22-0	Dan O'Shea and company near to 26-0 regular season
2.	Garondelet	20-3	Cougars' defense strong in 69-16 win over Pittsburg
3.	Pledmont	21-4	Morris gets plenty of help as team wins 10th straight
4.	Washington	23-2	Huskies still cruising in MVAL, making case for high seed in NCSD
5.	El Cerrito	21-3	Myleka Emerson scores 25 points in 58-34 win over Alameda
6.	Deer Valley	20-4	Erica Helms and Ashley Ellis gearing up for Carondelet rematch to
7.	Moreau Catholic	19-3	Mariners hold control of the HAAL race
8.	Miramonte	18-5	Katie Batlin and Matadors down Northgate, on pace for fifth straight
9.	St. Patrick	22-3	Bruins won seventh straight
10.	St. Mary's	16-9	Panthers overwhelms St. Elizabeth 97-17

Also receiving votes: San Ramon Valley (18-6), Berkeley (14-9). The girls basketball high schools. Records are through Feb. 15.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	22-1	Takes down Eastern power Mount Vernon (N.Y.) In convincing 5942
2.	Campolindo	20-3	DFAL title wrapped up for Cougars
t3.	Foothill	21-3	Falcons in mix for EBAL title
t3.	San Leandro	19-4	Pirates close to HAAL title
5.	St. Mary's	20-5	Brings halt to Salesian's 15-game winning streak with 64-62 victory
6.	Monte Vista	17-6	Mustangs lead in close EBAL race
t7.	Salesian	20-5	Locks up seventh straight 20-win season with blowout of Pinole Vall
ł7.	Skyline	19-5	Titans finally stumble in OAL action, fall to McClymonds 62-48
9.	Tennyson	20-3	Lancers ward off pesky Hayward 76-72
10.	De Anza	18-5	Pinole Valley loss to Richmond leaves Dons all alone in first place
Δls	o receiving vote	as Las Lorr	as (19-4) San Ramon Valley (18-6) The hove haskethall politic

East Bay high schools. Records are through Feb. 15.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

To submit an item to the What's Happening calendar, e-mail sports@cctimes.com to request a form. Put "What's Happening" in the subject line. Nonprofit organizations only. You may be asked to submit a copy of your 1099 or 501 (c)3 to verify nonprofit status. Entries are edited for content and are published as space is available.

PASENTE

San Pablo Baseball Association
— Sign-ups are being held on Feb.
25 and March 4 at Davis Park from noon to 3 p.m. There are divisions for 4-years-olds through 14-year-olds, and fees vary from \$90 to \$125. All fees are due at registration. For information, call 510-986-9220.

■ Pinole Baseball — Looking for players for 14U traveling tournament team. For more information call, 510-669-0733.

BASKETBALL

game-winning shot by the Oilers' Leslie Hudson on Feb. 16.

BOYS SOCCER

Kennedy 2, St. Mary's 0:
Miguel Gil assisted on first half goals by Felipe Cervantes and Jose Razo to help lead the host Eagles (17-2-4) past the Panthers (15-9-1) in a NCS 2A quarterfinal on Saturday.

David Maguire had nine saves for the 11th-seeded Panthers, who finished the season with a 15-9-1 record. Eagles goalkeeper Roberto Herrera made four saves to earn the shutout for third-seeded Kennedy (17-2-4), which beat St. Mary's twice in two previous Bay Shore Athletic League meetings this year, including a 1-0 win on Feb. 8.

Staff writer Phil Lensen and North American Youth Basketball
Tournament — Registration for boys
and girls, grades 5-12, through March
10. Tournament runs March 31-April 2
at Alameda High School, 2201 Encjnal Ave. Guaranteed two-game minimum. \$125. Ed Ruiz, 510-532-7301.

■ East Bay Xplosion — Tryouts for Spring teams, ages 10U-17U, Feb. 2 at a location and time to be determined. For more information call, 209-380-5440. Visit www.league-

■ Excellence in Basketball — Looking for boys, grades 6-12, for competitive AAU-type club league. Teams based in Antioch, Walnut Creek, Piedmont and Danville. Scholarships for hardship cases. 925-736-8741.

TOOTRALL

Hercules High School — Looking for a week two and scrimmage opponent for all levels next season. For more information contact Matt Felder, 510-245-5000.

Montclair Soccer Club — Tryouts for boys and girls, ages 8-18, March 18-April 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Merritt College, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland. Check Web site for dates and times

for specific age groups. 510-231-4744, www.montclairsoccer.org.

Alameda Soccer Club — Online registration for boys and girls, 5-18, through March 12. \$35 (returning players); \$60. Visit www.alamedasoccer.org. 510-337-9183.

 Alamed/Contra Costa Youth
Socor League — Tryouts for boys
and girls, ages 10-14, Feb. 24-25, 9
a.m.-4 p.m., 501 Harrison St., Berkeley. Teams based in Richmond and
Berkeley, For more information visit,
www.accysl.org/mav.html. SOFTBALL

■ Oakland Girls Softball — Online registration ongoing for Spring season, ages 7-14, at www.ogsl.org. Season begins in March. 510-339-7268. JOBS

Albany/Berkeley Soccer Club —
Seeking club manager with strong soccer background for part-time position. Reply by Feb. 27. Send resume and cover letter to absc.admin@comcast.net. 510-526-3912. Visit www.abscsoccer.com.

Wainut Creek Adult Softball — Umpiring positions open for 18 and older adult slow pitch league starting in April. Clinic to take place in Febru ary at time and date to be deter-mined. 925-943-1955, www.wcasl.org

minad, 925-943-1955, www.wcasi.org
Meadow Swim and Tennis Climb
Job opening for tennis director at
Orinda-based cliub. Small but active
four-court club for youths and adults.
Position begins April 1. Tracy Ellman,
925-234-9344 or e-mail, tracy, ell-

■ Miramonte High School — Ac cepting applications for head vars boys volleyball coach. Vince Dell'Aquila, 925-280-3930, Ext. 3451.

■ Carondelet High School — Accepting applications for track and field sprint and distance coaches. Season begins Feb. 6. 925-686-5353, Ext. 168 or e-mail, ggreen@carondeleths.org.

Livorna Swim Team — Seeking experienced swim coaches for Wainut Creek-based organization. Season runs late April-August. Bill, 925-930-9032 or e-mail, director@livornadol-phins.com.

Pleasant Hill Aquatic

San Ramon Valley

Lube & Oil

Girls

FROM PAGE 1

St. Mary's 59, Pledmont 47:

FROM PAGE 1
struggled the entire night to contain Morris.
Johnson led the Panthers with 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Courtney Dunn added 15 points.

Berkeley 54, De Anza 26: The host Yellow Jackets (16-9, 10-3 ACCAL) took a 29-15 halftime lead and received a game-high 17 points from Lauren Moore in the victory Tuesday.

Berkeley 85, Richmond 30: The visiting Yellow Jackets received a game-high 17 points from Kandice Stewart in the victory Friday.

Salesian 62, Albany 54: The host Cougars were outscored 18-

the Gauchos.

El Certto 67, Hercules 63 OT:
The visiting Gauchos outscored
the Titans 10-6 in overtime Friday and received a team-high 17
points from Quinney in the win.

8 in the fourth quarter in the first round of the BSAL playoffs on Tuesday. Tori Nicks paced the Cougars with 14 points. St. Patrick-St. Vincent 81, Al-bany 51: Nicks scored a team-high 17 points and added six re-bounds and seven assists for the visiting Cougars, who finished the BSAL regular season with an 8-5 record Friday.

8-5 record Friday.

GIRLS SOCCER

Las Lomas 3, St. Mary's 0:
The host Knights took a 2-0 first-half lead on the way to a victory





quarterfinals on Saturday. St. Mary's goalkeeper Scottie Meinke had 10 saves in the loss.

Staff writer Phil Jensen and correspondent Pete Elman contributed to this roundup.

correspondent Ben Enos contributed to this roundup

TOYOTA

yota, honda, lexus, nissan, acur^a Mitsubishi, volkswagen & audi



DROP-OFF SPECIAL

OW PLAYING

MMA'S HOUSE 2": Noth

in a suspect's home. He's a one-joke character in a one-joke movie, managing to be both grotesque and vaguely endearing at the same time. Mostly it's the same "broad" humor. — C. Lemire. (PG-13: some sexual humor, a humorous drug reference.) 1 hour, 42 minutes. C-

"THE BOYS OF BARAKA": This documentary about four inner-city boys "THE BUTS OF BARKAKA": This do urmentary about four inner-city boys who escape a life of poverty, violence and educational failure to discover their potential at an experimental boarding school in Kenya is a spiriled, sad, moving and beautifut film that chailenges viewers to do something more. — A. Hornaday, (Not rated: contains profainty and adult themes.) 1 hour, 24 minutes. A

"BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN": Two cowboys (Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger) fall unexpectedly in love in director Ang Lee's masterful ode to the West and romance. The pair meet and find themselves impossibly atracted to each other while herding sheep on Brokeback Mountain, then orm a clandestine relationship that asts 20 years. Everything about this created to the direction to the core. — R. Myers. (R: sexuality, nutify, language and some violence.) 2 yours, 14 minutes. A "BUBBLE": Steven Soderbergh's lif-

hours, 14 minutes. A
"BUBBLE": Steven Soderbergh's littie low-budget experiment — It's being released simultaneously on DVD
and HDTV — is a stark, minimalist
drama of the mundane that takes a
frightening turn into tragedy.
Fortysomething Martha is old enough
to be Kyle's mother, yet the two have
torged a quiet, sturdy friendship.
Bursting this unassuming bubble is
single mother Rose, who begins a filitation with shy Kyle — D. Germain.
(R: violence, language, drug use.) 1
hour, 13 minutes. B
"CACHE": Director/writer Michael

"CAPOTE": Philip Seymour Hoffman shouldn't be the only name considered for an Oscar nomination in this rich and prolound film about the maling of a masterpiece and the undoin of a writer. Hoffman never misses a

beat playing flamboyant author Tru-man Capote. The assured movie, from director Bennett Miller, follows the egomaniacal author through the process of writing his masterpiece, "In Coid Blood." Catherine Keener is exceptional as Capote's friend, and assistant, Harper Lee. — R. Wyers. (R: some violent images and brief strong language.) 1 hour, 50 minutes

"CASANOVA": In this witty, romantic romp, our randy hero (Heath Ledger) meets the woman of his dreams while pretending to be someone else. The message is "Love conquers all," and while that's an odd message for a movie about one of history's biggest rakes, it's also a nice thought anytime we can get it. — C. Hewitt. (R: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

"CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2":
Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt piay parents to 12 kids in this sequel to the 2003 original. Now the kids are growing up, and Dad is having a hard time adjusting to their leaving Chicago so he plans one last family vacation. The film's strengths, such as they are, lie in the appealing performances of Martin as the anxious but loving dad and Hunt as the perfect, patient mom. — N. Churnin. (PG) 1 hour, 40 minutes. C CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2":

"THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA:
"THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE
WARDROBE": The childlike wonderment we syerienced when we first
encountered the magical world of author C.S. Lewis is replicated in this
enchanting adaptation of the first of a
seven-book series. Four children living in England's countryside during
WWII enter a wardrobe that takes
them to a winter wonderland where WWII enter a wardrobe that takes them to a winter wonderland where an evil White Witch (Tilda Swinton) with killer fashion sense is In a tug-of-war with a majestic and virtuous lion (voiced by Llam Neeson). The film with Christian themes lags as it enters this more talky third final act, but "Narnia" casts quite a spell. Take the family and enjoy. — B. Myers. (PG: battle sequences, frightening moments.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. B+

hours, 20 minutes. B+
"CURIOUS GEORGE": In the animated adaptation of H.A. Rey's gentle children's classics, museum curator Ted meets George while leading an African expedition for a fabled idol. The statue is just the thing needed to boost the museum's falling attendance, but naturally the mission doesn't go as planned. Ted's main trophy from Africa is the friendly little monkey, whose high jinks back in the big city help save the museum. — C. Covert. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

"DATE MOVIE": The "brainchild" of two members of the "Scary Movie" writing team skewers the romantic comedy genre. Just as spoofy and trashy as those other movies, but maybe a tad more sophisticated. Could be better material, or the acting gitts of Alyson Hannigan ("American Ple"). — B. Strauss. (PG-13: sex, language). 1 hour, 23 minutes. B

language). 1 hour, 23 minutes. B
"DUMA": Carroil Ballard's beautiful wildlife adventure tale is an intimate story of a child and a wild animal told against an epic backdrop. A baby cheetah is found by 12-year-old Xan (Alexander Michaletos) and his father (Campbell Scott) near their farm in South Africa. The family nurses the cheetah to health and adulthood, knowing full well that someday the animal must be returned to the wild.— G. Whipp. (PG: mild adventure peril.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+
"EIGHT BELOW": A sort of "Old

peril.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B+
"EIGHT BELOW": A sort of "Old
Yeller" in the Antarctic about eight intrepid sied dogs left behind when a
blizzard cuts off travel, and the
mushy musher who resolves he's not
going to take that lying down. Paul
Walker is Jerry, the guide who takes a
meteor-hunter into the mountains,
where accidents happen and the
dogs do their Saint Benrard act. — R.
Moore, (PG: some peril, brief mild
language.) 2 hours. B
"END OF THE SPEAR": Steve

language.) 2 hours. B
"END OF THE SPEAR": Steve
Saint's father, Nate, was a missionary
pilot murdered with four others in a
bungled encounter with Amazon junglen atives in 1956. This independently produced religious film is
about that massacre; also Saint's
emotional confrontation with the man
who killed his father. Made with imagination and skill, but the script and
acting are limited. — R. Moore. (PG13: intense sequences of violence.) 1
hour, 52 minutes. B
"THE FAMILY STONE": in this warm

13: Interies sequences or transless, hour, 52 minutes. B
"THE FAMILY STORE": In this warm, tunny and smart film, Sarah Jossica Parker plays an uptight character in a premise many will relate to — meeting the in-laws, and how things get confusing when lots of people's feelings are involved. It's an unruly pile of dovetailing story lines that are surprising, complicated and genuine. Diane Keaton and Luke Wilson also star. — C. Hewitt. (PG-13: language, drug use.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B+
"FINAL DESTINATION 3": When a class outing ends in a roller-coaster

OPENING TODAY

Opens Friday

"COWBOY DEL AMOR" (NR)
A documentary about a cowboyturned matchmaker who can't quite
manage his own love life.

"DOOGAL" (G)
Jon Stewart provides the voice of an evil wizard who vows to deep-freeze the Earth forever.

"FATELESS" (NR)
This historical drama is based on Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz's novel about a Hungarian Jewish boy's experience during the Holocaust.
"MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION" (96.13)

"MADERS Form."
(PG-13) While planning her family reunion, a pistol-packing grandma (Tyler Perry) must contend with countless family dramas. Perry also wrote the screenplay and directs.

"TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK
AND BULL STORY" (R)
The classic 18th century novel "The
Life and Opinions of Tristram
Shandy, Gentleman" is grist for this
rowdy reinterpretation starring Steve
Coogan. Modern filmmakers set out
to film the notirously unfilmable

Coming soon

"DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY" (R) The M.I.A. comedian returns with a stand-up routine in this music/com-edy combo shot on location in Brooklyn. (March 3)

Brooklyn. (March 3)

"16 BLOCKS" (PG-13)

Bruce Willis stars in this action
thriller about a New York detective
assigned to escort a petty criminal
(Mos Def) to court. (March 3)

"THE ZODIAC" (NR)

First of two films about the Bay
Area's Zodiac killer, who terrorized
the area in the '60s and '70s.
(March 17)

taken at the amusement park. — C. Covert. (R: strong horror violence/gore, language, some nudity.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C+

dity, 1 hour, 30 minutes. C+
"FIREWALL": Harrison Ford returns to
his frantic roots as a bank security expert whose family is held hostage by
captors resembling members of a
boy band. Both Virginia Madsen as
his wife and Paul Bettany as the chief
of the baddies are wasted in this feeble and ineptly written thriller. — R
Myers. (PG-13: some intense sequences of violence.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. D+

utes. D+
"FREEDOMLAND": A white woman
(Julianne Moore) says she was carjacked by a black man, a claim that
sets off racial tension in a New Jersey
housing project and leads to a search
for the missing child she claimed was
in her back seat. This intense, morally
complex thriller also stars a solid
Samuel L. Jackson as a detective
skepitcal about her story. The movie
has its fallings, including a miscast
Moore, but it is gripping and takes us
to places we don't expect. — R. Myers (R: language and some violence)
B

ers (h.: language and some vicience) B

"FUN WITH DICK AND JANE": Jim
Carrey and Tea Leon istar in this remake of the 1977 George Segal and
Jane Fonda movie. The premise —
an upper-middle-class couple turn to
crime to maintain their lifestyle after
losing their jobs — has tremendous
potential as a satire of our consumerist society and our obsession
with status. But the picture's primary
interest is giving Carrey a stage for
his trademark over-the-top stylings.
Even here, though, it disappoints,
since the actor spends most of the
picture in strangely muted mode.
R. Rodriguez, (GG-3: vulgar language, adult themes,) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D+
"GLORY ROAD": Newly hired colle-

guage, adult themses, i hour, so minutes. D+

"GLORY ROAD": Newly hired collegiate basketball coach Don Haskins
(Josh Lucas of "Sweet Home Alabama") tries to whip up a winning
season by recrutiting players, mostly
black, in the mid-60s. What results is
history: the first all-black starting
lineup. This rousing sports movie delivers the goods, mixing drama and
humor to offer a famility film that earns
its appliause. It slips a bit at the end,
but is filled with hope and feeling. —
R. Myers. (PG: racial issues including
violence and epithets; momentary
language.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. B+

"GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD HICK"."

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK":

R. Murrow's tangle with anti-Communist fanatic Joseph McCarthy (wisely depicted in archival footage). The film both educates and entertains, reminding us of an important episode in history that resonates today. — R. Myers. (PG: mild thematic elements, brief language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. A

"HOSTEL": Few horror movies are truly disturbing. This one is. Twen ysomething friends Paxton (Jay Hernandez) and Josh (Derek Richardson), smoke hash and chase foreign

See MOVIES, Page C4

es for Friday February 24

eda County

at 1 and 2

Soro Ave. A

4:30, 7:15, 9:35 World's Fastest Indian (PG-13) MC Bay Street 16

ne (PG-13) 1:30, 3:40, 5:45, 8

010. Ink Panther (PG) 1:40, 2:20, 4, 100, 7:20, 8:45, 9:30. Oling New (PG-13) 3, 5:30, 8:15,

na (R) 6:40, 9:20. Burials of Melquiades Estrada

(40. Point (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10. of Space & Science *

Blvd, Oakland 510-336-7300 k movies and times.

ine (PG-13) 8:40. ance Grand Lake W (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9. G-13) 7:30, 9:40. nd (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45,

imily Reunion (PG-13) 0.7, 9:30. Thee (PG) 12, 2:30, 5.

tie, Berkeiey 510-526-1836 (R) 2:15, 5, 7;45 6, 5, 7:45. Hents (R) 2, 4:45,

kway Speakeasy

Munich (R) 6.
Syriana (R) 9:45

Piedmont Theatre

Regal Jack London

Shattuck Cinemas Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-464-5980

Academy Award Nominated Animated
Short Films 5:05, 9:20.

Academy Award Nominated LiveAction Short Films 2:40, 7.

Caph (R) 1:40, 4:15, 6:55, 9:40.

Caph (R) 1:40, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25.

Cowboy del Amor (Not Rated) 2:20,
7:15.

7:15. •Curlous George (G) 12:45, 2:50, 4:55,

7:05. •Eight Below (PG) 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45. •Firewall (PG-13) 9:10. •Munich (R) 1:05, 4:30, 8. •The New World (PG-13) 2, 5, 8:15. •Three Burlais of Melquiades Estrada (0) 4:35 0:25

eTransamerica (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 eWhy We Fight (PG-13) 2:30, 4:50, 7:25,

United Artists Berkeley 7

9:30. •Madea's Family Reunion (PG-13) 12, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:40. •Night Watch (R) 11:40, 2:10, 5, 7:40,

•The Pink Panther (PG) 12:10, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45. •Running Scared (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20.

United Artists Emery Bay

**
330 Christie Ave. Emeryville 510-420-0107
•Big Momma's House 2 1:20, 4:20, 7:20.
•Chronicles of Narnia (PG) 12:50, 7:15.
•Curlous Gorge (G) 12:10, 1, 2:20,
3:10, 4:40, 5:30, 7, 7:40, 9:30.
•Clight Below (PG) 12, 1:10, 2:40, 4, 5:20, 7, 8; 10, 10:40. 7, 8, 10, 10:40.

•Final Destination 3 (R) 12:40, 3, 5:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30.

•Glory Road (PG) 4:10, 10:15.

•Running Scared (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00. •Transamerica (R) 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10.

en a Stranger Calls (PG-13) 9:45. Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre 4 Orlinds Theatre Sq., Orlinda 925-254-9060 987okeback Mountain (R) 1, 6:30. •Capote (R) 4, 9:15. •Eight Below (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:35. •Firewall (PG-13) 12:30, 4:30, 9. •The Matador (R) 2:35, 7.

Rheem All Stadium 4
350 Park St. Moraga 925-998-9411
• Curlous George (G) 5, 7:25, 9:40.
• Freedomland (R) 5:10, 7:30, 9:55.
• Mrs. Henderson Presents (R) 5:05

7:20, 9:45. ●The Pink Panther (PG) 5:15, 7:35, 9:50.

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop

2.40, 5:05, 7:25, 9:55. ▶Brokeback Mountain (R) 1:05, 4:05, 7:10.

Curious George (G) 11:35, 1:40, 3:45,

**Curious George (g) 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10.

**Date Movie (PG-13) 11:45, 2, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:25,

**Poogal (G) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

**Elight Below (PG) 11:30, 1, 2:15, 3:40, 4:55, 6:25, 7:35, 9:15, 10:30,

**Final Cestination 3 (R) 12:30, 3, 5:25, 7:50, 10:10

**Firewall (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 7:45, 7:15, 9:45, 7:45, 7:15, 9:45, 7:4

9:45. •Freedomland (R) 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45,

10.15 eMadea's Family Reunion (PG-13) 11:50, 12:40, 1:25, 2:20, 3:10, 4, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9, 9:50, eThe Pink Panther (PG) 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:05, 9:40, 7:05, 9:40. ning Scared (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5, 7:40

4:40, 7:05, 9:40.

Running Scared (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:20.

Something New (PG-13) 12:15, 5:20.

When a Stranger Calls (PG-13) 2:45, 8,

San Francisco

262

Curlous George (G) 12:35, 12:35, 2:50, 2:50, 2:50, 5:10, 5:10, 7:15, 7:15, 9:30, 9:30. **Date Movie 12:40, 2:45, 4:45, 7:05, 9:10 **Deogal** (G) 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:20, 9:40 **Elight Below (PG) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50. **Plnat Destination 3 (R) 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:51, 9:50. **Elight Below (PG) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50. **Elight Below (PG) 1:05, 4:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:5

•Match Point (R) 11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35. •Pink Panther (PG) 1, 3:15, 5:25, 7:45, 10:15. •Running Scared (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10,

Something New (PG-13) 12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 7:35, 10:10. •Walk the Line (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:20,

NATURAL NATURAL 9

**Bat Post Street. San Francisco 415-922-4262

**Bate Movie 12:10, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 9:40

**Eight Below (PG) 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50.

**Frewall (PG-13) 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 10:15.

**Freedomland (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10.

Madea's Family Reunion (PG-13) 12, 230, 5, 7:40, 10:20. •Munich (R) 1, 4:30, 8:15. •The Pink Panther (PG) 12:20, 2:45. 5:30, 8, 10:30. •Walk the Line (PG-13) 12:50, 4, 7, 10.

Castro Theatre
429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120

Clay Theatre
Clay Theatre
Street, San Francisco 415-267-4893 •Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9:15

Embarcadero Center Cinemas

3893 ■Brokeback Mountain (R) 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5, 7, 8:30, 10. ■CachÈ (R) 1, 4, 7:10, 10:15. «Capote (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10. ●Mrs. Henderson Presents (R) 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50.

Lumiere Theatre

#
1572 Californa St., San Francesco 415-777-3456
-Academy Award Nominated Animated
Short Films 12-45, 5:15, 9-45,
-Academy Award Nominated LiveAcademy Award Nominated LiveAcidon Short Films 3, 7:30,
-

Opera Plaza Cinema

Opera Plaza Cinema

Analysis Ave., San Francisco 415-267-4893

(Not. Rated) 4:30.

9:40 "Cowboy del Amor (NR) 2, 4:45, 7, 9:30. Fateless (Not Rated) 1:45, 5, 8:15. Pride & Prejudice (PG) 1:30, 6:45. Prime Burials of Melquiades Estrada (R) 2:15, 5:15, 8.

The Red Vic Theatre

The Roxie Theatre cisco 415-863-

CSA: Confederate States of America (Not Rated) 7, 9. Shut Yer Dirty Little Mouth (NR) 6:15, 8, 9:45.

AMC Loews Metreon 15 * 101 Fourth St, San Francisco 415-369-6201

•Big Momma's House 2 (PG-13) 11, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45, 12:20.

•Curlous George 12:10, 2:40, 5, 7:25, 9:35,

11:45. •Date Movie (PG-13) 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:25, 12:55. •Doogal 11:40, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:20,

10:35, 12:45. •Firewall 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:55, 10:30, 1. •Freedomiand (R) 1:10, 1:10, 4, 4, 6:55, 3:55, 9:55, 9:55, 12:40, 12:40. •Madea's Family Reunion (PG-13) 10:40, 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:50, 12:30. •Match Point (R) 12:35, 3:40, 6:50, 9:40,

Final Destination 3 (R) 12:20, 3, 5:30, 8,

Munich (R) 11:30, 6:40. Night Watch (R) 10:45, 1:30, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10, 12:50. •The Pink Panther (PG) 12, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20, 12:40.

7:40, 10:20, 12:40.

Proving Mars (G) 10:30, 11:50, 1:10, 2:30, 3:50, 5:10, 6:30, 7:50, 9:10, 10:30

Plunning Scared 12:50, 3:50, 7:05, 10 ana (R) 3:30, 10:05. erworld: Evolution (R) 11:20, 2, 7:30, 10:05, 12:35.

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Movies

FROM PAGE C3

in a dungeon with a variety of sharp tools and wild-eyed people with ideas about how to use them. — C. Lemire. (R: brutal scenes of torture and violence, strong sexual content, language and drug use.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C+

utes. C+
"IMAGINE ME & YOU": Like "Brokeback Mountain," this movie takes the
homosexuality of its leads as a matter
of fact. Here they're women, one a
bride-to-be who locks eyes with the
wedding florist and, presto-change-o,
senses she's in love. Could be fun,
but it's a gooey, tiresome bore. — G.
Whipp. (R: language, sexual material.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. D

"KING KONG": A spectacular, but long-winded — three hours plus! — remake from director Peter Jackson ("Lord of the Rings"). Naom! Watts makes a wonderful damsel in distress, a vaudeville actress who becomes the object of the 25-foot ape's affection. The creature is a special-effects marvel, who expresses both sympathy and fury as he woos the beauty who will be his downfall. Also great is Skull Island — a tropical nightmare filled with hellish sights and savages. — R. Myers. (PG-13: frightening adventure violence and some disturbing images.) 3 hours, 7 minutes. B+ s. B+

minutes. B+

"LAST HOLIDAY": Retail clerk Georgia Byrd (Queen Latifah) learns she has only three weeks to live. The prognosis leads the overly conscientious women into making a U-turn, selling off bonds and going on a decadent European vacation. Thanks to a huggable performance by Latifah— who transforms from a timid mil-quetoast to a speak-her-mind Clifderella—it works. Director Wayne Wang ("The Joy Luck Club") shows great affection for both his characters and situations, plus LL Cool J is charming as the shy love interest.—

B. Myers. (PG-13: some sexual references.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. B+

"LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE

ences.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. B+

"LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE
MUSLIM WORLD": This Albert
Brooks satire takes a promising
premise and squanders it with lame
jokes and predictable situations. The
whiny Brooks heads to India to learn
what makes Muslims laugh at the beheat of the U.S. government. Brooks,
so good in "Broadcast News" and
"Defending Your Life," serves up
clunky jokes and feeble commentary.
After a promising start, it turns
painfully untunny. — R. Myers. (PG13: drug content, brief strong language.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. D+

"MANDERLAN": In the second film of

guage.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. D+
"MANDERLAY": In the second film of
Lars von Trier's abstract trilogy, it's
the 1930s and the fugitive Grace
(Bryce Dallas Howard, filling in for
Nicole Kidman) has left he violent
setting of "Dogville" and is on the run
with her gangster father. In Alabama,
she feels compelled to remain at the
Manderlay plantation, where slavery
strangely still thrives. — C. Lemire.
(Not rated: contains language, violence, nudity, sexual situations.) 2
hours, 19 minutes. C"THE MATADOR": Pierce Brosnan

lence, nucly, sexual situations.) 2 hours, 19 minutes. C"THE MATADOR": Pierce Brosnan plays against type as Julian, an International assassin facing a serious career meltdown, who strikes up an unlikely friendship with struggling, straight-arrow businessman Danny (Greg Kinnear). The two meet over margaritas in a hotel bar in Mexico City, then go their separate ways soon after. But something has happened between them that we won't know until six months later, when Julian shows up at Danny's door. It seems the hit man has one more job to do before he can retire and he wants — demands — Danny's help.

— J. Mathews. (R: strong sexual content and language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B
"MATCH POINT": Woody Allen takes

utes. B
"MATCH POINT": Woody Allen takes
on a new game and, for the most
part, scores. The movie, set in Engiand instead of New York, pays
homage to film noir with its dark
themes. Jonathan Rhys Meyers stars
as a tennis pro smitten with his new,
upper-crust rifend's flance (Scarlett
Johansson). The film-school symbolism and tennis metaphors can be a
bit much, but that can almost be ignored in a movie filled with suppress
and snappy exchanges. — R. Myers.
(R: some sexuality.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. B
"MEMORIPS OF A GEISHA": This

"MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA": This beautiful epic based on the best-sell-ing 1997 novel plays up the soap-opera elements as it chronicles the

BAY AREA

REVERSE MORTGAGE

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Oakland, CA 94611

life of a pre-WWII geisha. Ziyi Zhang ("House of Flying Dangers") plays Sayuri, a geisha of great acciaim who finds herself terribiy Infatuated with an older man (Kern Watanabe) who seems barely aware of her existence. As directed by Rob Marshall ("Chicago"), "Geisha" caresses our senses with its breathtaking imagery and lush photography, but what uit-mately results is a slightly shallow version that emphasizes the melodrama. — R. Myers. (PG-13: mature subject matter and some sexual content.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B

tent.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. B
"MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS":
This mildly naughty and fitfully entertaining comedy/drama finds Judi
Dench playing a familiar role, that of
an upstart widow who likes to engage
in a battle of wits with anyone she encounters. Dench is indeed delightful
as Laura Henderson, proprietor of a
vaudeville theater where the actresses go nude to buoy business,
and Bob Hoskins as the theater manager she hires. But the tone shifts,
slapping away the comedy in favor of
drama and the resulting fusion doesn't gel. — R. Myers. (R: nudity and
brief language.) 1 hour, 43 minutes.
C+

C+
"MUNICH": Director Steven Spielberg creates another masterpiece in this harrowing, fictionalized account of the fallout involved when political retribution enters the global land-scape. Eric Bana ("Troy") portrays the head of a secret Israeli team out to pick off the masterminds behind the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. This powerful thriller, the year's best, asks us to consider the effectiveness—and human toll—of political vendettas.—R. Myers. (R: strong graphic violence, some sexual content, nuclity and language.) 2 hours, 44 minutes.
"NANNY McPHEE": Emma Thomp-

44 minutes. A
"NANNY MCPHEE": Emma Thompson wrote and stars in this family film.
Done up with hairy warts and a snaggletooth, she's the latest namy for
seven unruly children living in the
English countryside. The A-list cast
(Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury) has a
great time, and "McPhee" is nearly always pleasant. If less than spectaculate. — R. Myers. (PG: mild thematic
elements, some rude humor and brief
language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B"WELL YOUNG: HEART OF OLD."

language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B"NEIL YOUNG: HEART OF GOLD":
Jonathan Demme's superb concert
film puts Bay Area musician Neil
Young, some longtime musical companions and a terrific batch of old
and new songs at center stage, then
maintains the focus solely on those
harmonious ingredients. The production serves to complement and flavor
intimate performances from Young at
his country-tinged best. — D. Germain. (PG: some drug-related lyrics.)
1 hour, 43 minutes. A"THE NEW WORLD": The latest film

1 hour, 43 minutes. A"THE NEW WORLD": The latest film
by iconcolastic filmmaker Terrence
Malick ("The Thin Red Line") is
achingly beautiful, but slowly paced,
with more volce-over narration than
dialogue. Colin Farrell is John Smith
and Q'Orlanka Klicher is Pocahontas
in this tale of the interaction between
settlers and Native Americans in 1607
Virginia. — R. Myers. (Pc-13: some
intense battle sequences.) 2 hours,
15 minutes. B+
"NIGHT WATCH": The farces of light."

15 minutes. B+
"NIGHT WATCH": The forces of light and dark battle in this Russian block-buster full of vengeful-lover ghouls, shapeshifters and category 11 twisters — not to mention horrible Moscow traffic. A super-stylish blend of Slavic mayhern. — B. Strauss. (R: violence, language, nudity, children in jeopardy). 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

jeopardy), 1 hour, 56 minútes. B
"THE PINN PANTHER": This remake
of the Peter Sellers classic brings
only a few satisfying laughs. The
coach of the French national soccer
team is murdered, and his priceless
ring vanishes. Police inspector Dreyfuss (Kevin Kine) assigns the case to
the country's most inept cop. The
idea is for the media to foliow the
bumbling Clouseau (Steve Martin),
thus freeing Dreyfuss to actually solve
the murder. —R. Butter. (PG: occasional crude and suggestive humor
and language.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. C
"PRIDE & PRE-ILIDICE": This version.

and language, 1 hour, 32 minutes. C
"PRIDE & PREJUDICE": This version brings robust energy and spunk to the Jane Austen classic about romance and class complications. Keira Knightley makes a fine heroline, with pluck and a thing for that brooding snob Mr. Darcy (Matthew Macfadyen). The two take a while to get the sparks firing, but once they do, they turn this beloved story into a romantic comedy that holds up, even compared with earlier versions. — R. Myers. (PG: some mild thematic elements.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. A-

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IT'S NEXT TO NOTHING BY JOE DIPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ 11 Under the nar

ACROSS
I Small turnover
7 Careless
15 Gut feeling?
OP Prener's partne
21 Color similar to turquoise
22.5 Mades
23 "Now!"
25 Make into law
26 Stephen of
"Breakfast on Pluto"
27 Thought some more about
28 Gas company

her
91 Fugard's "A Lesson
From ___"
93 Not just lean
96 Shelters
97 "Yeah, right"
99 Angelo's
Instrument

"THE PRODUCERS": Although it's

"THE PRODUCERS": Although it's little more than a filmed version of the Broadway hit, this off-color musical about a producer (Nathan Lane) and an accountant (Matthew Broderick) who try to turn a profit by creating theater's hugest flop is still good fun. The best parts of funnyman Mel Brooks' ribald, loving sendup of Broadway occur when the duo's "Springtime for Hitter" debuts in all its tastelessness. Will Ferrell as the show's Hitler-loving playwright and the rest of the supporting cast are delignitul. — R. Myers. (PG-13: sexual humor and references.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. B

numor and references.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. B
"RENT": The rock opera beloved by a young generation stumbles a bit in its transition to the screen. Director Chris Columbus prefers gloss over grit, stripping the Pullitzer Prize-winner of one of the reasons it was so lauded. Still, the cast, made up of "Rent" stage veterans, is strong, and the music and story does rock. But Columbus seems uncertain too often, annoyingly sending his camera in a tailspin when we should be locking in on these eight young adults struggling to make sense out of life, love and death in 1979 New York. — R. Myers. (PG-13: mature thematic material involving drugs and sexuality, some strong language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B"ROVING MARS": The first half of

some strong language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B"ROVING MARS": The first half of this large-format film is a peek into the detailed work a huge cadre of astronauts must linish before the craft can head for Mars — a long-shot trip that one astrobrain likens to "shooting a basketball from Los Angeles to New York and having it go through without touching the rim." Things get even better when the craft lands and begins gathering information. — C. Hewitt. (G) 40 minutes. B+
"RUMOR HAS IT ...": Jennifer Aniston gets star billing, but Shirley MacLaine shoves everyone aside with her boozy and bitter act as an older and meaner Mrs. Robinson. Aniston valiantly tries to make her character appealing as she searches for her face

105 It has nine figures

DOWN
1 Ancient military hub
2 Work recounting Dido's suicide
3 Butterfly, e.g.

4 An omega stand

oe a little more patient"

57 & 58 Common cake ingredient

59 Fire starter?

61 Nothing that play a prominent role i

ther, whom she suspects is the real "Graduate." Mark Ruffalo turns in another likable guy performance. Somularunny moments. — R. Myers. (PG-13: mature thematic material, sexual content, crude humor and a drug reference.) B-

enca) B"THE SQUID AND THE WHALE":
"THE SQUID AND THE WHALE":
Jeff Daniels stars in this tale of bitter
divorce and family breakdown. He
plays Bernard, a writing professor
and novelist whose talent is drying
up, and who grows increasingly sour
over his wife's (Laura Linney) rising
fortunes as a writer. All this couple
has left to offer their kids is trancor.
The decision to split up and share
custody quickly follows. — D. Germain. (R: strong sexual content,
graphic dialogue, language.) 1 hour,
28 minutes. B+
"SOMETHING NEW": The chemistry

28 minutes. B+

"SOMETHING NEW": The chemistry between Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker sizzles in this sharp, sweet interracial romantic comedy about an uptight L.A. career woman falling for a landscape architect. First-time feature director Sanaa Hamri slips a bit, but the lively screenplay and cast make up for those lapses. — R. Myers (PG-13: sexual references) 1 hour, 40 minutes. B

"TRISTAN & ISOLDE": James
Franco plays Tristan, a warrior in Dark
Ages Britain who is polsoned and
tossed on a funeral boat that drifts to
Ireland. Isolde, the daughter of a
king, finds and cures him. They fall in
love, he returns home, and later

south 94 See 92-Down 95 The Arrow

Isolde is offered as the prize in a tournament. The political intrigues are tricky to follow, but the splendid sword fights and love scenes aren't. Alas, though, the pair just don't give this film that Romeo-and-Juliet hearbreak it so desperately needs. — R. Moore. (PG-13: Intense battle sequences, some sexuality.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. B
"SYRIANA": This relevant, meaty and episodic political thriller ties together multiple narratives to provocatively peer into the world's peritious oil addiction. Director/writer Stephen Gaghan uses a flash-card approach similar to what he did for his Oscarwinning "Traffic." But in his first outing as director, he has fashioned a compelling and urgent film that also frustrates. "Syriana" is just too much of a good thing, overly cluttered with characters to the point of confusion. George Clooney, Matt Damon and Jeffrey Wright head an A-list cast given lines worthy of Shakespeare. —R. Myers. (R: violence and language.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. B
"TRANSAMERICA": In this uneven comedy, Felicity Huffman plays Bree, a pre-op male-to-female transsexual. She is eagerly looking forward to her surgery when she gets a call from Toby (Kevin Zegers), a 17-year-old Manhattan street hustler who's landed in jal and is trying to find his father, whom he has never met, but who had a brief affair with his late mother. — K. Thomas. (R: nudity, obscenities.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B

drug dependency.) 2 hours utes. A-

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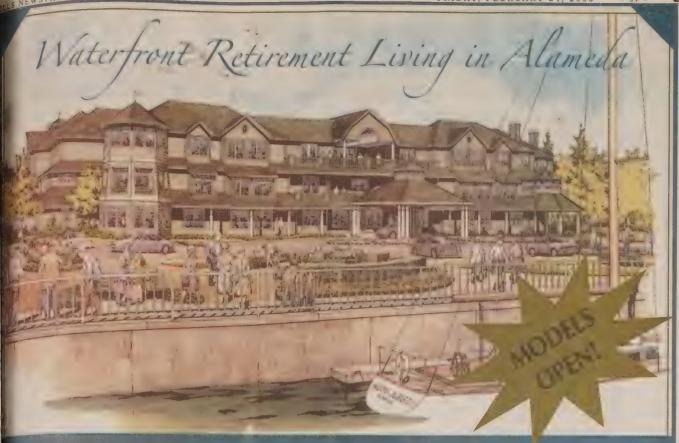


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ndy Myers

most buzzed-about tries this year was Is Not Yet Rated," ry that attacks the board, claiming its mbers go easy on take a sledgeham-l content.

REVIEW

- WHAT: "Running Scared" STARRING: Paul Walker, Cameron Bright, Chazz Palminteri, Vera Farmiga
- RATING: R (pervasive strong brutal violence and language, RUNNING TIME: 2 hours, 2
- WHERE: Opens today in area

tales. In a wink-wink, I'm-beingso-clever move, Kramer sets the
action, er, carnage, which spans
18 loooong hours, in a town
called Grimley.

The plot finds an abused boy
named Oleg (an impressive
Cameron Bright) escaping not
into the woods, but onto the
mean streets of New Jersey, with
the Big Bad Mafia in pursuit.
Pretty-boy actor Paul Walker
("Into the Blue," "The Fast and
the Furious") convincingly
musses up his bland persona as
Joey Gazelle, a Jersey dad entangled with the Italian mob and
later the Russian mob.

During a botched drug buy—
one of the film's most gruesome
and impressively choreographed
sequences — Joey pockets the
gun used to snuff a bad cop. He
brings it home, where it is
promptly stolen by Oleg, the kid
next door. The boy takes the
weapon into his house and later
plugs his John Wayne-obsessed
Russian father (a vile Karel Roden) during a nasty argument.
Oleg flees the dysfunctional family scene, with dad still alive and
angrier than ever.

Eventually, the mob learns
that Joey didn't dispose of the
gun as he said he would, leading
him to search for Oleg so he can
retrieve it. Joey does find Oleg,



CAMERON BRIGHT (as Oleg) and Vera Farmiga (as Joey Gazelle's

came of the two form a bizarre alliance, having both been socked around like punching bags by their dads. The film struggles to make a statement about this connection, but it comes across muddled. (See David Cronenberg's "A History of Violence" to witness this theme done right.)

What does come across clearly in "Running" is what a fine actress Vera Farmiga ("Down to the Bone") is. She plays Joey's street-smart wife, Teresa, and is so good you'd swear she just wandered out of Jersey.

Kramer hands Farmiga and Bright the best parts in the film, a harrowing subplot involving a yuppie couple (Bruce Altman and Elizabeth Mitchell) who snatch children and take them to their apartment to molest them. Oleg enters their evil lair, where one room has been transformed into a sunny playroom, complete with kiddie costumes and plastic covering on the carpet.

These scenes are bone-chilling and powerful, especially when Oleg hides in the bathroom and phones Teresa to come rescue him.

Kramer shows a sure and brilliant hand here, never revealing what is going on, but creating sweaty fear that recalls the tetror of "Silence of the Lambs." Especially effective are the nightmarish images Oleg sees through the glass while he's huddled in the bathroom. That eerie vision mirrors a shadow play with the taloned form of the Witch from Hansel and Gretel beckoning outside. Brilliant touch.

It's too bad that as soon as that story line ends, Kramer retreats to his old ways, upping the violence to hysterical levels. The movie climaxes in an idiotic bloodbath staged on an ice hockey rink. By that time, the Retring board has allowed "Running Scared" to skate right past the NC-17.

Reach Randy Myers at rmy-ers@cctimes.com or at 925-977-8419.

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 2. "Cell," by Stephen King. (Scribner, \$28.95.)

 3. "The Last Templar," by Raymond Khoury. (Dutton, \$24.95.)

 4. "After: Poems," by Jane Hirishfield (HarperCollins, \$23.95.)

 5. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)

 6. "The Good Life," by Jay McInerney. (Knopf, \$25.7)

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 8. "The Hunt Club," by John Lescroart (Dutton, \$26.95.)

 9. "On Beauty," by Zadie Smith. (Penguin, \$25.95.)

 10. "Sea Change," by Robert B. Parker (Putnam, \$24.95.)

seini. (Riverhead, \$14.) 3. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinso (Back Bay, \$13.95.) 4. "Brokebeck Mountain," by Annie Prouk. (Scribner, \$9.95.) 5. "Close Range," by Annie Prouix (Scribner, \$14.)

- nonfiction

 1. "In Cold Blood," by Truman Capote (Vintage, \$14.)

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 4. "Night," by Elie Viesel. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$8.)

 5. "Animals in Translation," by Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. (Harvest, \$15.)

 6. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Penguin, \$17.)

 7. "The Tipping Point," by Maicolm Gliadwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)

 8. "San Francisco Bay Area Restaurants," by the editors of Zagat Survey (Zagat, \$13.95.)

 9. "Guns, Germs, and Steel," by Jared Diamond. (Norion, \$16.95.)

 10. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)

 Mass market paperback

Mass market paperback

- "Skeleton Man," by Tony Hillerman (Harper Torch, \$7.99.)
 2. "The Closers," by Michael Connelly (Warner, \$7.99.)
 3. "Hard Truth," by Nevada Barr (Berkley, \$7.99.)
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8. "You're Wearing That?" by Deborah
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Arts & Leisure

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Brush up on Oscar nominees

THE ACADEMY AWARDS are just nine days away, but don't panic — there is still time to see some of the Os-car-nominated films on DVD.

NORTH COUNTRY

NORTH COUNTRY
Charlize Theron is up for a
Best Actress statuette for her
role as a Minnesota mine
worker pushed too far by her
abusive male co-workers.
Theron proved her acting
chops when she took home an
Oscar for Best Actress in
"Monster" just two years ago.
Frances McDormand also delivers a striking performance
as a mine union representative,
and earned a Best Supporting
Actress nomination for her efforts. Sexual harassment is the
central theme in this DVD,
which makes it relevant, riveting and difficult to watch.
"North" is far too intense for
children and most teens, but
adults and seniors will find it
painfully mesmerizing. (R:
Sexual harassment, violence
and language). 2 hours and 3
minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Ratings (out of 4 stars): Overall: 3 stars Kids: N/A Teens: 2 stars Adults: 3 stars Seniors: 3 stars

Should you rent it? Yes car-caliber acting with a

Oscar-caliber acting with a powerful script.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

With four Oscar nominations, including Best Actress hopeful Keira Knightley, "Pride" is the latest remake of Jane Austen's classic 19th century love story. Knightley is charming and cements her position as the new Winona Ryder, though this role is not quite Oscar-worthy. This DVD is well constructed with solid acting, but I still found it only marginally compelling. Did we need a remake of "Pride" Does this interpretation offer a new dimension? No, on both counts. This isn't to say the DVD is cinematic gruel — it's not — and many women will probably disagree with my tepid enthusiasm. Children, however, are certain to be bored and confused by the rich English accents, intricate vocabulary and robust running time. (PG). 2 hours and 7 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Ratings (out of 4 stars): Overall: 21/2 stars Kids: 1 star Teens: 1½ stars Adults: 2½ stars
Seniors: 3 stars
Should you rent it? Yes — a
treat for English majors, though
a bit long for the rest of us.
ENRON: THE SMARTEST
GUYS IN THE ROOM
A nowings in the Best Door

a bit long for the rest or us.

ENRON: THE SMARTEST
GUYS IN THE GUYS IN THE BOOM

A nominee in the Best Documentary category, "Enron" details the jaw-dropping fraud behind the rise and fall of the former corporate behemoth.

And unlike the truth-challenged Enron executives, I will announce my bias upfront and disclose that I used to work for an energy company that suffered greatly during the Enron-fueled energy crisis. The outrage that most Californians feel toward Enron needs no artificial stoking. But in attempting to bring a complicated story about intricate business scams to life and simultaneously work viewers up into a lather, the filmmakers take it a step too far. Do we really need to see dramatized scenes of naked women in a strip club to demonstrate a former Enron executive's bizarre but irrelevant obsession with exotic dancers? Despite this over-the-top style of advocacy filmmaking, "Enron" remains an important and compelling DVD. (R: Language and nudity). I hour and 50 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Ratings (out of 4 stars): Overall: 3 stars Teens: 11/2 stars Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 21/2 stars Should you rent it? Yes -cautionary tale of abuse of cower in the executive suite

J.B. Alderman lives in Piedmont and can be reached via www.PhDVD.com.

Oakland musician in tune with youngers

By Jennifer Modenessi

Like Anansi, the African folk-loric half-man, half-spider trick-ster, Oakland musician David "Asheba" Wilson has a passion for stories

"Asheba" Wilson has a passion for stories.
Only Asheba (the name means "creative one") prefers to tell them through song.
The 46-year-old singer-song-writer has carved a niche for himself among his favorite audience — children. With two records under his belt and a third on the way, Asheba is establishing himself as something of a troubadour, reaching out to younger generations with funky calypso and reggae-soaked dancehall-flavored songs, ballads and lullabies.
Asheba is about to embark on a tour in conjunction with a new CD released by the Putumayo world music label, "Reggae Playground," which finds his soothing "Reggae Lullaby" among kid-oriented offerings by luminaries such as Judy Mowatt, Rita Marley and Toots and the Maytals.
It's a long way from the days of busking in New York subway stations, which Asheba credits as a foundation of his current incarnation. After all, it was a little girl who approached the Trinidadian at a train station and taught him his first English children's song, "Itsy Bitsy Spider."
To say that Asheba "connects" with his audience is only half the story. He tries to perform — often accompanied only by his guitar — at least four times a week in venues ranging from schools and farmers markets to zoos and children's hospitals, and is firmly committed to reaching the generations he feels need to be fed — with music.
Q: Tell us a little bit about your Trinidadian musical roots.
A: We are very, very fun energy people. I believe it's because of the music and the cuture and the carnival that allows us to carry that energy on through the whole year. As a country, I believe the atmosphere of the arts is very, very strong.

The music of Trinidad came from Africa, of course. Just after the abolition of slavery and emancipation, we took that West African energy and at a point where the French had big influence — and Spanish, too —



ASHEBA HAS YOUNGSTERS join him onstage as he sings the classic "Itsy Bitsy Spider" at Ashkenaz in Berkeley. He will Saturday at the Oakland Zoo.

"When I get them to come to a show, I do popular songs that they know in a way they've never experienced.

the energy mixed and it was called kaiso or calypso music.

Then the English came — the last people to come into the country. The music stayed the same, but the words were in English now. So the blend of the music is French, African and English, with a strong Latin American influence. Calypso music has also been a big influence on reggae music. It blends the whole Caribbean sound.

Q: When did you begin play-

A: I believe from birth I was given that desire to connect through music. I used to listen to songs and sing them and then

developed an ability to work vith music.

The first instrument I played was the steel drums, which is the national instrument of my country. I still play it today, but I'm not taking it on tour — it's hard to travel with them. After the steel drums, I took up the guitar. A friend of my father had an old guitar and I used some fishing wire on it for strings. It sounded really bad, but I started to strum. I didn't know any chords, but I figured it out!

O: How did you develop

Q: How did you develop such a strong desire to connect with and perform for children?

with and perform for children?

A: In my country, the musical atmosphere is very competitive. I didn't like that side of it. I always liked to write songs about nature. I can see a deep connection between nature and children. If you look at children, they're the closest thing to nature. You look at a baby that cannot talk ... they're in a stroller, they cannot talk to you, but they can connect to you from an energy place. They kind of talk to you with their eyes.

Q: Describe to us what an Asheba children's show is like.

Asheba children's show is like.

A: If I'm in a public place, children and adults most of the time are passing through, like at the farmers market. They don't come there to see Asheba, they come there to shop. I would try to connect with these people relative to their journey — to come to the market, buy some vegetables and enjoy the sun. Then when they're passing by, I sing "It's a beautiful day, it's a beautiful day. The sun is shining, you're going your way. Don't you know we got some vegetables for you ..." I'm connecting to them relative to their experience.

Q: Is the music you write

Jazz up a Sunday outing at Yoshi's

■ Matinees let you enjoy sophisticated music with a kid-friendly ambience

a kid-friendly ambience

Why It's cool: What's a jazz lover to do when the kids come along? Listen to Raffi? Again?? The atmospheric Yoshi's jazz club family matinees offer the chance to nosh a little sushi, hear jazz greats and get your kids interested in America's art form. The matinees are short — roughly an hour — and keyed to a younger crowd. But don't expect kiddie music. It's the same great jazzy Sinatra songs when whiskey-voiced singer Steve Tyrell comes this Sunday. On the 19th, Poncho Sanchez's Latin Jazz Band performs.

What kids like: Cool music

What kids like: Cool music in a grown-up club, with a waiter to bring you snacks and occasional surprises — one jazz artist bought every kid ice cream; another improvised a jazzy "Sesame Street" rendition. What's not to like?

What parents like: Jazz-loving parents who put their clubbing proclivities on hold when the kids came along adore Yoshi's family matinees. It's the same great music — Jazz pianist McCoy Tyner played a sizzling set two weeks ago — but with



PIANIST McCoy Tyner performs with his band at Yoshi's on Jan. 29 during a family jazz matinee

kid-friendly flair and cheap tickets. Plus, sushi.

ets. Plus, sushi.

Beforehand: Call Yoshi's direct to order your tickets. You can't get the kid rate if you order online, and these tickets sell quickly. Plan to arrive early — doors open at noon — to put your dibs on a club table, then mosey next door to Yoshi's Japanese restaurant for sushi, tempura and yakitori (call it "yummy chicken" if you've got a picky eater).

Parking time: There's a park-

Parking tips: There's a parking garage next door. Yoshi's box office will stamp your parking stub for a reduced rate. Or, ride BART to Oakland's 12th Street station and take a cab or bus to

THE BASICS

- WHERE: Yoshi's at Jack London Square, 510 Embar cadero West, Oakland.
- TICKETS: \$5 for kids, \$15 for adults when accompanied by a kid. No kid? You'll pay general

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JOHN YEAROUT of Mill Valley and his son Hayden comfortable in the lounge and wait for the show to be

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Torque		
Transmission .		Six-speed automatic
Wheelbase		
Height		
Curb Weight		
Fuel Capacity		18 gallons
Mileage		

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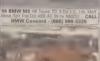






































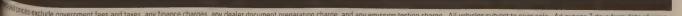












1960 Citroen a rare find in the United States

BY VERN PARKER

audience. Indeed, he had not yet been born when the 2CV model was introduced.

The popular French car never achieved great success as an export, except in certain French enclaves, such as Morocco. The last Deux Chevaux, No. 5,114,466, was mianufactured in 1990 and by that time the streets of Casabianca were full of the small, underpowered but practical cars. In his youth, Dhouech encountered countless 2CV Citroens and thought nothing of them until he emigrated to the United States in August 1994.

Because of safety standards, the Deux Chevaux was not welcome in the U.S. About a year after he arrived in the United States, Driouech was surprised to see a woman driving one of the little Citroens. He attempted to catch up to her, but traffic thwarted his effort. Still, his Deux Chevaux fre had been kindled.

Driouech learned that latter-day Citroens could be assembled on old frames and be imported into the United States as antique automobiles. With that knowledge, he began searching for the Deux Chevaux of his dreams, a flashy Charleston, the fanciest model.

"I looked for 10 years to find the car I wanted," he says. Finally, in March of 2000, he saw an ad offering a 1985 Deux Chevaux Charleston built on a 1960 chassis.

CLASSIC CLASSICS

The car was on Long Island, N.Y.
With his mechanically inclined father-in-law by his side as an advisor, the two drove four and a half hours to New York to see what they

visor, the two drove four and a half hours to New York to see what they could see.

They learned that the car had been restored in the Netherlands and the man selling the 12.6-footlong car had owned it about two years. Negotiations didn't consume much time and to Driouech's surprise, the owner gave him spare parts, a new exhaust, system, two new tires and a variety of light buibs.

"I was thinking," Driouech says, "buy this car and get ready for rust problems." The little Citroens have always been prone to rust. Still, he had to have the car. "It's nice, unique and simple," he explains. He was immediately at home with the quirky gear-shift lever protruding from the dashboard that operates the four-speed transmission. As Driouech drove off in his new old car, the odometer had recorded 77,000 kilometers, but he questions the accuracy of that instrument. The trip home to Springfield, Va., took seven hours. "We got home at 11 p.m.," Driouech says. "It was a long day."

Traversing the length of the New Jersey Turnpike, he laments, "I didn't pass one car, not even a bloycle." His father-in-law patiently followed the Citroen, putting along at the minimum speed on the toil road. Now that he's more familiar with

his car, he says he sometimes will drive at 60 mph, "but no more than 60." He never ventures out in his 1,235-pound car on windy days. "I don't take a chance on the highway." A vent the width of the car, 4 feet, 10.25 inches, can be opened below the windshield for fresh air. A screen over the opening filters out most insects.

"The engine won't let you down," Driouech says. The diminutive car rolls along on 235R15 tires and is halted by disc brakes. The flat twin-cycling, overhead-valve engine is air-cooled and develops 29 horsepower.
Factory specifications indicate a top speed of 71 mph and a 0-to-60 mph time of 32 seconds. The practical little car, however, does deliver 40 miles per gallon. Driouech points out that his car is equipped with seat belts and has a Solex carburetor. The engine takes 10W40 oil, he reports, which is readily available. The special brake fluid is difficult to find, he says, except in France. Rack-and-pinion steering gives the Citroen an incredible nimbleness that Driouech has appreciated in the almost 2,000 kilometers he has driven the car this year. "It's a happy car," he says. It brings a lot of smiles to other motorists and pedestrians, who ask, "Did you make it yourself?"

Static electricity can be controlled with spray static guard chemicals

BY JUNIOR DAMATO

Dear Doctor: I own a 2005 Nissan Murano. My problem is static electricity. The dealer said there is, nothing they can do about it. I even hung a ground wire from the undercarriage. This did not work. Any suggestions would be appreciated. — Bill Dear Bill: Static electricity is not unusual. Static electricity will differ from vehicle to vehicle and person to person. In the old days, we used to install a rubber strap to the underside of the car and touch the actual ground when the car is stopped. I recommend the use of

AUTO DOCTOR

spray static guard chemicals. The static guard can be sprayed onto the cloth seating areas and rugs. You can also use the same static guard on your clothes and this should eliminate the shocking. Another possibility is to use a spray cloth cleaner on the cloth seating or leather cleaner on the leather seating.

seating.

Dear Doctor: In a recent column you had mentioned a product to help eliminate carbon deposits in the cylinders and cylinder

heads. Could you please tell me the name? — Steve: There are a couple of good products that you can add to the gas tank every three months to help remove and eliminate carbon deposits. Technon by Chevron and products by Wynn's are the two I use at my shop. There are also professional services available for carbon deposit removal at some repair shops. A professional decarbon treatment has much stronger chemicals than any type of cleaner that goes into the gas tank.

See DOCTOR, Page D3



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Vincent
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technician road-test the car and inspect the car on a lift. I would ask
the technician to pay special attertion to any rust buildup, especially
at the gas, brake lines and all suspension components.

Deer Doctor: I own a 1990 Buick
Electra that is in great condition. The
problem I have is the speedometer
will stop working while I am just driving along. It will restart on its own.
The odometer never stops recording the mileage. — Barbara
Dear Barbara: It sounds to me
like there is a problem in the actual
sneedometer head unit in the dash

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1598 Pacific Av - \$505,000

3214 Phoenix Ln - \$573,000

1109 Rosewood Wy - \$679,000

436 Santa Clara Av - \$735,000

1337 Sherman St - \$845,000

417 Whitehall Rd - \$670,000

000 Kains Av - \$660,000 55 Pierce St 1723 - \$384,000

BERKELEY

2125 Carleton St - \$815,000 2590 Cedar St - \$1,316,000 1015 Cragmont Av - \$700,000 1219 Evelyn Av - \$525,000 1409 Greenwood Tr T - \$550,000 2328 Le Conte Av - \$700,000 2313 Oregon St - \$840,000 1513 Sacramento St - \$812,000

3425 Carlson - \$900,000 1616 Richmond St - \$610,000 1709 Wesley Av - \$695,000 2613 Yuba Av - \$950,000

EL SOBRANTE

810 Marin Rd - \$540,000 4461 SP Dam Rd - \$625,000 5778 S'wood Forest - \$500,000 985 Valerie Ct - \$584,000

EMERYVILLE

2 Anchor Dr F383 - \$282,000 6363 Christie 315 - \$390,000 4316 Essex St - \$615,000

1745 103rd Av - \$450,000
1622 11th St - \$655,000
1622 11th St - \$415,000
1726 26th Av - \$418,500
1726 26th Av - \$418,500
1726 26th Av - \$418,500
1222 30th St - \$429,500
1222 30th St - \$429,500
1222 30th St - \$429,500
1222 30th Av - \$400,000
2648 38th Av - \$400,000
2648 38th Av - \$400,000
2161 40th Av - \$468,000
829 43rd St - \$475,000
1300 53rd Av - \$555,000
1300 53rd Av - \$555,000
1301 53rd Av - \$545,000
830 56th St - \$689,000
1150 58th Av - \$225,000
2116 73rd Av - \$545,000
1246 80th Av - \$545,000
1246 80th Av - \$550,000
1246 80th Av - \$550,000
1056 86th Av - \$510,000
1011 87th Av - \$362,000
2228 87th Av - \$470,000
1114 88th Av - \$465,000
485 8th St 501 - \$350,000
2026 96th Av - \$425,000
1785 9th \$1 + \$550,000
1785 9th \$1 + \$550,000
1785 9th \$1 + \$550,000
1785 9th \$170,000
2031 Asilomar Dr - \$811,000
1786 Auseon Av - \$455,000
1786 Auseroft 1 - \$602,500
700 Calmar Av - \$730,000
5136 Bancroft 1 - \$602,500
700 Calmar Av - \$730,000
5136 Bancroft 1 - \$602,500
700 Calmar Av - \$730,000
1263 Clemens Rd - \$630,000
9244 Coral Rd - \$445,000
3241 Davis St - \$650,000
3241 Davis St - \$650,000
3241 Davis St - \$799,000
3485 Davis St - \$860,000
1786 East 17th St - \$550,000
1863 Clemens Rd - \$630,000
9246 Chesthut St - \$550,000
1863 Clemens Rd - \$630,000
9246 Chesthut St - \$550,000
1863 Clemens Rd - \$630,000
9246 Creat Rd - \$445,000
1950 Tury Rd - \$592,500
11 Ealing Ln - \$360,000
01 Falling Ln - \$360,000
01 Falling Ln - \$476,500
539 East 17th St - \$580,000
1468 Last 17th St - \$580,000
1468 Last 17th St - \$600,000
6115 East 17th St - \$600,000
6116 Heather Ridge - \$850,000
0445 Evans Av - \$779,000
1017 Everett Av - \$730,000
11 Calk St 710 - \$480,000
6316 Oaks Rd - \$475,000
031 Calthy - \$125,000
049 Staten Av 301 - \$850,000
049 Staten Av 301 - \$850,000
041 East 17th St - \$850,000
041 East 17th St - \$850,000
041 East 17th St - \$600,000
6310 Casthy - \$750,000
041 East 17th St - \$600,000
040 State

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139 Lake Av - \$980,000 1034 Winsor Av - \$929,500

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1838 1st St - \$385,000
927 32nd St - \$500,000
104 35th St - \$435,000
1526 5th St - \$435,000
1526 5th St - \$435,000
1526 5th St - \$435,000
1731 5th St - \$480,000
1731 5th St - \$480,000
2414 B'wood Ct - \$418,000
506 Bridge Vlew Ct - \$480,000
2424 Bush Av - \$499,500
1600 Daisy Ct - \$638,000
2529 Downer Av - \$540,000
5201 Esmond Av - \$585,000
3411 Florida Av - \$250,000
3523 Humphrey - \$352,000
5012 Kirk Ln - \$470,000

165 Marina L. 164 - \$347,000
4715 Meadowbrook - \$520,000
1530 Poplar Av - \$675,500
3514 Roosevelt Av - \$408,000
3818 Roosevelt Av - \$408,000
308 Target Av - \$408,000
5438 Santa Cruz Av - \$455,000
527 South 44th St - \$655,000
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By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 11 LOWEST PRICE: \$288,500 HIGHEST PRICE: \$965,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$630,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$621,864

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TOTAL SALES: 8 LOWEST PRICE: \$525,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,316,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$812,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$782,250

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4 LOWEST PRICE: \$610,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$950,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$900,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$788,750

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4 LOWEST PRICE: \$500,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$625,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$584,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$562,250

See SALES, Page D6

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TOTAL SALES: 3
"LOWEST PRICE: \$282,000
"HIGHEST PRICE: \$615,000
"MEDIAN PRICE: \$390,000
"AVERAGE PRICE: \$429,000

TOTAL SALES: 88 LOWEST PRICE: \$170,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,900,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$490,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$559,705

PULDMONY

TOTAL SALES: 2 LOWEST PRICE: \$929,500 HIGHEST PRICE: \$980,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$954,750

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TOTAL SALES: 31

SANTEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 18 LOWEST PRICE: \$460,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$675,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$555,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$572,389

SANTORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 3 LOWEST PRICE: \$520,000 HIGHEST PRICE: \$590,000 MEDIAN PRICE: \$560,000 AVERAGE PRICE: \$556,667

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BY HERB SHULDINER MOTOR MATTERS Virtually all vehicles have blind spots that prevent a driver who is changing lanes from seeing whether the road behind is clear. GM has demonstrated a system that is far from production, but one that could give drivers an edge in overcoming this hazard and possibly ellminate accidents caused by blind spots. The V2V system also sees vehicles up to one-quarter mile ahead and sends signals to drivers and informs other motorists with the V2V system of your position. V2V is like having an all-seeing companion riding along to monitor the blind spots that hide vehicles from view. It can also help ellminate chain rear-end collisions by alerting you when there is a vehicle stopped ahead, it even finds vehicles ahead that are hidden around a corner, or blocked by other vehicles. Using a single sensor, antenna

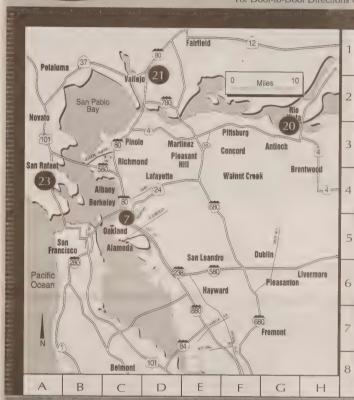
DOWN THE ROAD

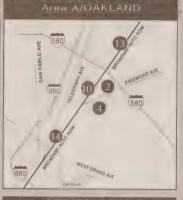
GM experiments with eliminating the dangers of blind so

and GPS technology, V2V helps you anticipate potentially hazardous driving conditions and either steer around those obstacles or stop in time to avoid a crash. The GM system uses chimes and visual icons. Even if the driver ignores the warnings of V2V technology, the car will come to a safe stop before the driver rear-ends another vehicle.

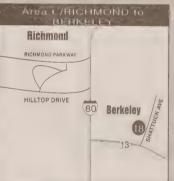
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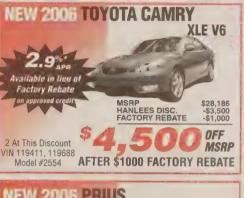




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Friday, February 24, 2006

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A DECOUPAGE TRAY, top, and stool, bottom, from Annie Modica, who lauched a line of decoupage home accessories eight years ago and now has a dozen employees turning out more than 30 different hand-orafted designs on trays, boxes, stools, cache pots and more at the San Rafael, California company that bears her name.

^{TOR} JONATHAN FONG'S "art chairs" offer a bold take on decoupage.

Luscious love: A guide to chocolate

BY KATHLEEN PURVIS
KNIGHT RIDDEN REVISAMPERS
Sweet. Rich. Complicated. Temperamental. Is this a lover or a food?
Chocolate, really, is both. For some people, it inspires as much devotion as a relationship. And as an ingredient, it can be as frustrating as a bad date.
Warm it and it melts into a smooth pool. Add the thiest bit of moisture and it becomes a hard, grainy mass. Raise and lower the temperature just right and it will harden to a lovely sheen at room temperature. Miss by just a few degrees and you'll get a gooey mess.
But you can conquer chocolate. With the right information and tools, you can make it do your bidding.

Types

Types

What we call chocolate comes from cacao beans. The beans are fermented, roasted and aged, then the nibs inside are ground in a heavy press. The heat of the press releases the fat, called cocoa butter. The remaining paste, called chocolate liquor, is where the flavor is. Chocolate liquor and cocoa butter are combined in different ways and amounts to produce different chocolates.

Insweetened: Also called chocolate liquor or baking chocolate (not Baker's Chocolate, which is a brand of sweetened chocolate). Good-quality unsweetened chocolate contains only cocoa butter and solids from cacao beans. Cheaper versions may contain lecithin as an emulsifier.

■ Dark chocolate: Usually called sweet, semisweet and bittersweet. The difference between them is the amount of sygar and chocolate liquor. They are usually interchangeable, and there is no standard for the difference in sweetness. Dark chocolate liquor. Bittersweet is darker and higher in chocolate liquor and there is no standard for the difference in sweetness. Dark chocolate liquor Bittersweet is darker and higher in chocolate liquor than sweet and semisweet. Extra-dark chocolates can go as high as 85 percent.

■ Milk chocolate: A minimum—of 10 percent chocolate liquor, plus—milk solids, sugar and vanilla. It's milder and lighter in color, and it doesn't keep as long as dark chocolate. It's usually not used in baking, except for candy making and to flavor cake frosting.

■ Cocoa: Chocolate liquor, the paste left after the cocoa butter is—removed from ground cocoa beans, is dried, ground and fluffed. When an alkalin is added to neutralize the acidity, cocoa is called Dutched or Dutch-process. If the recipe doesn't specify, either Dutch-process or natural can be used, but recipes with baking soda won't work as well with Dutch cocoa. Recipes usually refer to "unsweetened cocoa powder" so it isn't confused with sweetened drink mixes. Because it has no cocoa butter, it is lower in fat than solid chocolate.

no cocoa butter, it is lower in fat than solid chocolate.

**White chocolate: Not true chocolate because it contains no chocolate liquor. It does contain cocoa butter, sugar and milk solids. Check the label and make sure it has cocoa butter, which gives a smooth texture; cheaper brands use lecithin.

■ Bloom: A white or grayish film, streaks or spots, caused when co-coa butter separates from the other ingredients and crystalizes on the surface. It's caused by age or how the chocolate was stored. It's harmless and disappears when chocolate is melted.

tracted when cacae processed into chocolate.

Confectionery coating: Made with a vegetable fat, sugar, milk solids and flavorings. It sets up at room temperature and is sometimes called candy coating or compound coating. It's used as a chocolate substitute, but it isn't chocolate.

Converture: Chocolate with

chocolate substitute, but it isn't chocolate.

■ Couverture: Chocolate with at least 32 percent cocoa butter. It is used to create the thin, smooth coating on dipped candies. Because of the high cocoa butter content, it must be tempered. The "snap" of fine chocolate is a sign of couverture.

■ Ganache: A mix of melted chocolate and cream; the proportions of each dictate the fimmess. It's used as truffle centers, pastry filling and as a glaze.

■ Ganadula: A mixture of chocolate and roasted hazelnuts.

■ Selzing: When a small amount of moisture gets into melting chocolate, it latches onto sugar crystals and turns the chocolate into a grainy or clumpy mass. Some sources say you can fix it by adding a small amount of shortening; others say the chocolate is ruined and must be discarded. Chocolate can be melted with liquid if the ratio of liquid is high enough, at least 4 teaspoons liquid per ounce of chocolate.

Shapes

Shapes

Chunks: Large quantities of chocolate for baking or candy making are usually sold in thick blocks. Use a wide-bladed chef's knife to chop or cut off pieces. Never use a food processor to chop chocolate. The blade will melt it.

Bars: Many chocolates are sold in thinner bars that can be used for eating. It can be used for cooking, but it will be more expensive than buying in bulk.

Chips: They have less cocoa butter than bars and blocks, so they hold their shape in baking. Don't substitute chips for bar chocolate in recipes because they don't melt as smoothly.

Morsels: The brand name for Nestes' chocolate chips.

Wafers: Discs that are sold in baking supply stores and specialty catalogs. They melt faster and are easier to work with than large blocks that have to be chopped or small bars that have to be unwrapped.

Techniques

Techniques

**Storing: Don't store chocolate in the refrigerator or the freezer, where moisture can damage it. Keep it well wrapped at room temperature, preferably in a dark place away from anything that produces heat, such as the oven. The ideal temperature is 65 to 75 degrees. Be careful what you store it around. Even wrapped chocolate can pick up strong scents, like onions or garlic, even mothballs in a closet.

**Metting: Chocolate burns easity, se it must be melted carefully. Usually, chocolate is melted in a double boiler over hot or barely simmering water. If you use a sin-

candies, such as truffles, or fruit into melted chocolate. For a substitute, break out the middle two tines from a plastic fork, or balance the item on the end of two chopsticks.

Double boiller: Chocolate is usually melted over hot or barely simmering water. If you don't have a double boiller, place a stainless steel bowl over a saucepan. Make sure the fit is very tight. If steam escapes around the edge of the pan, it can cause the chocolate to seize.

Kitchen scale: Most recipes for chocolate give the amount in ounces, which is more precise than measuring chopped chocolate in a cup.

The Sweet Kitchen," by Regan Da-ley (Artisan, 2001); "All About Chocolate," by Carole Bloom (Macmillan, 1998); and "The Baker's Field Buide to Holiday Candy and Confections" by Dede Wilson (Har-vard Common, 2005).

CLASSIC CHOCOLATE FUDGE

It's hard to believe there was a time before fudge. The earliest written record is in the archives of Vassar College and dates to the 1880s. Make sure you use a large enough pot for the boiling sugar base.

5½ ounces unsweetened chocolate, broken up or coarsely channel.

cups heavy (whipping)

1/8 teaspoon salt
2½ teaspoons vanilla extract
Warm water, if needed
1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)
Line an 8-inch-square pan with
foil, letting it overhang two sides.
Grease or spray with nonsick spray.
Put chocolate in a large heatproof bowl or large mixer bowl and
set aside.

proof bowl or large mixer bowl and set aside.
Combine the cream, sugar, corn syrup, butter and salt in a heavy, 4-to 5-quart pot or Dutch oven. Bring to a bowl over medium-high heat, stirring with a wooden spoon. Immediately cover with a tight-fitting lid and boil for 3 minutes, to allow the steam to wash sugar crystals from the sides of the pot. Carefully wash all the sugar from the spoon. Remove the lid and reduce the heat so the mixture boils briskly but not hard. Dip a pastry brush in warm water and wipe away any remaining sugar crystals from the side of the pot. Clip a candy thermometer to the side of the pot with the tip immersed but not touching the bottom.
Continue cooking, gently stirring and scraping the bottom occasionally, for 3 to 7 minutes or until the mixture reaches 235 to 237 degrees on the thermometer (soft ball stage).
Carefully remove from heat and pour the hot sugar over the chocolate. Do not stir. Cool about 1 hour, or until just barely hot when you touch the outside of the bowl.
Stir with a clean wooden spoon or beat on low speed with a stand mixer until chocolate is fully melted. Add the vanilla. Continue stirring or beating vigorously until the mixture lightens in color, begins to thicken and gradually loses most of its shine, 5 to 10 minutes. (If it begins to separate and looks oily, add a few teaspoons of warm water and beat until it's smooth again.) Quickly stir in the nuts, if using.
Scrape or spread in the lined pan. Working quickly with a lightly greased table knife, spread and smooth the top. Let cool on a wire rack until ist smooth again.) Quickly stir in the nuts, if using.
Scrape or spread in the lined pan. Working quickly with a lightly greased table knife, spread and smooth the top. Let cool on a wire rack until ist smooth again.) Quickly stir in the nuts, if using.
Scrape or spread in the lined pan. Working quickly with a lightly greased table knife, spread and smooth the top. Let cool on a wire rack until set. Lift the foil and remove from pan. Refrigerate until chilled, a

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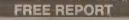
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cles during manufacture. The longer chocolate is conched, the smoother it will be. In cheaper chocolates, lecithin is used to mimic long conching times.

Chocolate liquor: The thick, nonalcoholic liquid made from grinding the nibs inside roasted cacao beans. The basis for all chocolate, it's sometimes called chocolate, it's sometimes called chocolate, it's sometimes called chocolate bean it produces.

Cocoa butter: The fat extracted when cacao beans are processed into chocolate.

Confectionery coating: Made with a vegetable fat, sugar, milk solids and flavorings. It sets up at room temperature and is sometimes called candy coating or compound coating. It's used as a chocolate substitute, but it isn't chocolate.

a pitchfork, it is bulk chocolate.

■ Dipping forks: Used to dip

Such as truffles, or fruit into



CHOCOLATE COMES in all shapes and sizes

method for the home cook is shortcut tempering:
Finely chop at least 1 pound of
good-quality semisweet or bittersweet chocolate. Place ¼ of it in a
heatproof bowl and set the bowl
over a pan of barely shmmering water. Make sure the bowl fits tightly
in the pan with no room for steam
to escape. Stir gently until the
chocolate melts. Use a thermometer to make sure it doesn't get hotter than 115 degrees.
Remove the bowl from the pan,
immediately wiping the outside dry
with a towel. Add half the remaining
chopped chocolate. Stir until it mets.
Stir in more unmetted chocolate until chunks no longer melt. Check with
a thermometer, the chocolate should
be 79 or 80 degrees. Retrum to the
pan of hot water. Stir until the temperature reaches 88 or 89 degrees.
Don't let it go above 90 degrees, or
you'll have to retemper it. If the
chocolate cools too much while
you're working, return it to the pan
of water and reheat to 88 degrees.
If you don't use it all, it can be cooled
and stored.

Equipment

Equipment

many recipes call for wooden spoons when melting chocolate, we prefer these flexible spatulas. Silicone spatulas won't melt at the low temperatures used for chocolate, and they can get all around the edges when stirring or removing chocolate from the pan.

**Thermometers:* Tempering chocolate requires precisely controlling the heat of the chocolate. An instant-read or digital thermometer with a remote probe will help. Check the accuracy by placing in a glass of ice water; it should register 32 degrees. A candy thermometer is needed for bolling-sugar mixtures for things like fudge.

**Heating pad:* After chocolate has been tempered, turn a heating pad to the lowest setting and place the pan of chocolate on it to keep it from cooling. Check regularly with a thermometer; it shouldn't go above 89 degrees. Cover the pad with a towel to keep it clean.

**Parchment or nonstick foil:* For lining pans to hold dipped chocolates while they set. It saves cleanup and keeps them from sticking.

Sources: Chocolate Chocolate,**

Sources: "Chocolate Chocolate."

Chocolate fork: Shaped like by Lisa Yockelson (Wiley, 2005); "In-



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Whack those weeds

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Choosing your bottled water wisely

While any time of year is a good time to consider starting an exercise program, most of us set at least one New Year's resolution around health and fitness.

Staying hydrated is an important aspect of any exercise program, including winter sports activities. Since bottled water easily accommodates the active lifestyle of today's families, these products are an obvious choice when heading to the gym or out for a day of sking. But are there really any differences between the various brands and types of bottled water?

Types of Bottled Water

Types of Bottled Water

While many consumers think of it as drinking water, bottled water is actually considered a food product in the United States. While the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes regulations for public water supplies, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has responsibility for setting requirements for bottled water products. Contrary to many reports, bottled water products sold in the United States, including imported brands, are strictly regulated.

regulated.

As part of their regulations, the FDA sets identity standards for many types of bottled waters. Seven of the most common types of bottled water products available on the shelf today include:

to the surface.

Drinking Water. Bottled drinking water comes from many different sources, including public water
supplies. It generally undergoes filtration and disinfection.

Fluoridated Water: Fluoridated bottled water contains either
naturally occurring fluoride or fluoride that is added back into the water after treatment. Typically, the
minimum fluoride presence is 0.8
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of the Martinez club. "We have a chance to help so many people at a time when the food banks are lowest, while we assist more women in reaching their fitness and weight loss goals. It's a win-win situation for everyone, and we're very proud to participate."

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Crest Optical Celebrates 40th Anniversary

I'd like to introduce myself to those of you I haven't met yet, and to say hello again to those I have met in my previous 34 years with Crest Optical.

Crest Optical, located at 1527 Olympic Blvd., in Walnut Creek, just celebrated it's fortieth anniversary at this location. We take great pride in our customer service and customer satisfaction. With a new year, we are all excited about the new 2006 frame styles that are arriving.

custom made jewelry. His, experience has opened many

new doors for us and our patients, here at Crest Optical. We do faceting on lenses, inset rhinestones in lenses and frames, and make custom clipon sunglasses to fit the patients frame, all of this is done on the premises. We take pride in assisting each patient in selecting a frame for their daily wear glasses and also sunglasses. If you would like a special pair of glasses for the computer, to do crafts, hobbies, or play golf we can do that too.

We value your business and friendship, and look forward to serving you in the years to come. Stop by anytime, Monday thru Saturday, 9:30 to 5:30, and we'll be happy to serve you.

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Did you know? An estimated 23 Million Americans Experience Some Kind of Hearing Loss. Helen Keller said, "When you lose contact with things, when you lose your hearing, you lose contact with people".

with people".

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- Free Video Ear Inspection to see if it is wax or a hearing loss.
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- I have found that most

people have three questions when they come in for a hearing test. First they want to know if they have a loss? Second, if a loss is discovered can a hearing aid help? And third, how much do they cost? Of course, a hearing test will provide information to answer the first two questions, but the price may vary depending on what help you need and what product you choose. We have low cost aids and high cost aids.

It's easier to hide a hearing aid, then a hearing loss!

I dedicate myself to all who suffer a loss of hearing. Communication with family and friends is a cornerstone for a happy and productive life. I help assist people who are hearing impaired in reaching their goals

Fitness Together Lafayette

exercise for 40 to 60 minutes, three times a week.

2. Having a Coach, Almost every self-help book ever written talks about the critical importance of having a coach/mentor. It's inevitable that you will come up against hard times on your path to losing weight and getting fit. A coach will guide, motivate, educate and support you and is critical to systemizing your exercise program for maximum results ad assisting you in heightening your commitment. A coach becomes your "objective feedback system," helping you see, understand and correct the problems that are interfering with your progress.

Thomas Peeks, Cpt. Lwmc. Owner

Revealed: Four secrets to finally achieving the weight loss, health and fitness results you want!

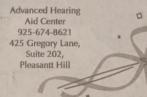
1. Commit to your exercise program. Many would want you to believe that a pill, fad diet or a special machine will solve all your weight loss and fitness problems. The real "secret" is quite simple and I'll distill it for you right here: eat 4 to 5 small healthy meals per day and perform a combination of aerobic and resistance training exercise for 40 to 60 minutes.

2. Having a Coach. Almost every

Progression. Have you ever met someone who says he or week, month after month, and even year after year and gets work, doing the same workout over and over without expert upon progressively influence in the same workout over and over without expert upon progressively improve and fine tune your efforts for met someone who says he or met someone who says he or met someone who says he or week, month after month, and even year after year and gets work work and get without expert upon progressively indicated in the progressively improve and fine tune your efforts for met someone who says he or week, month after month, and even year after year and gets week, month after month, and even year after year and gets week, month after month, and even year after year and gets week, month after month, and even year after year and gets week, month after month, and even year after year and gets week, month after month, and eve

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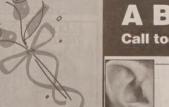
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Warmth in the bowl, warmth in the glass

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Thank goodness for mild-mannered Mildwestern chili recipes.
Start playing with hot chilies for
your "bowl of red" and you risk doing battle with your wine, especially
the bigger, plusher reds so favored
in winter.
Wheth

whether that Midwestern chill is from Chicago or Cincinnati, the warmth in the bowl comes mostly from the heavenly mix of tomato, beans and ground beef, not chilles. That presents wine lovers with plenty of opportunities for good wine pairings.

For Todd Hess, wine director at Sam's Wines & Spirits, Midwest chill is a tremendously versatile dish wine-wise. The cumin and chill powder, in particular, are red-wine spices, he said.

"A ripe Rhone or a zinfandel would work really well," he said.
"You could even have a merlot, God forbid, or a cabernet."

Hess said these wines may taste better with the chill than on their own because of the harmony of flavors created through the pairing.

"There's a nice affinity," he said, adding that the one red wine he would steer clear of is Bordeaux.

A little sweetness is what Sterling Pratt of Schaefer's in Skokie, Ill., looks for in pairing wine with chill. But then there's a sweet story behind how he reached this conclusion in the first place.

Pratt and his wife met almost 16 years ago at a Super Bowl chill party. He showed up with a 3-litter bottle of a Cotes du Ventoux, a wine made in France's southern Rhone region.

"It's like Beaujolais with guts," Pratt said of the wine. There is also a residual sweetness to this affordable red that harmonizes with the secret ingredient in his wife's chill: brown sugar.
"It's a dry red and the chili doesn't taste sweet, but I think there's a little harmony there," he said.
Denise Norton, owner of Flavour Cooking School in Forest Park, Ill., said a big zinfandel works great with a milder, tomatobased chill.

But ratchet up the heat — and you know there are folks out there who do so with gusto and you need a different wine strategy.

"For a bit more spice, I might suggest a white with a crisper afterlaste," Norton said, offering a Big Fire pinot gris from Oregon as

an example of a wine that can go with spicy food.
Another route, she said, would be a sparkling wine like a Spanish cava or even the Gruet Blanc de Noir made in New Mexico.
Hess, too, takes the white road when the chill heat starts to bloom.
"I'd go for a really aromatic white like a gruner veitliner, which has a kind of a chill pepper characteristic, or a rose. A rose works really well with spicy dishes," Hess said.

HODGEPODGE CHILI

HODGEPODGE CHILI
The Chicago Tribune's Good
Eating staff created this recipe for
a 1998 story about chili contests.
It's a milder, bean-filled, Midweststyle chill that can be found in
"The Chicago Tribune Good Eating Cookbook."

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

ing Cookbook."

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 pound each: Italian sausage,
ground beef
1 large onlon, chopped
1 green bell pepper, seeded,
chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 jalapenos, chopped
1 tablespoon each: chili powder, cumin seeds
3/4 teaspoon salt

1 can (28 ounces) chopped tomatoes, undrained 1 can (15 ounces) each, undrained: kidney beans, Great Northern beans 1 can (14 ½ ounces) chicken

1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
1/4 cup sach, chopped: ciliantro,
parsley
Optional toppings: shredded
cheese, chopped onlon, siliced
jalapeno, chopped tomato
Heat oil in Dutch oven over
medium heat. Remove sausage
from casing; add sausage and beef
to oil. Cook until browned, about
8 minutes. Stir in onlon, bell pepper, garlic, jalapenos, chili powder,
cumin seeds and salt. Cook, stirring often, until onlon softens,
about 4 minutes.
Add tomatoes, beans, broth,
tomato paste, ciliantro and parsley;
stir to combine. Heat to a boil; reduce to a simmer. Cook, partially
covered, until flavors have blended,
2½-3 hours. Taste and adjust seasonings. Serve with toppings on
the side if desired.
Preparation time: 35 minutes,
cooking time: 3 hours, makes 10
servings.

A bottle (and a bowl) of

Sippin' wine and sippin' chili. Is there a better way to mellow out on a dark, wintry Friday afternoon? The Good Eating wine tasting panel would have been hard-pressed to come up with an alternative, if the empty chili tureen and high wine scores are any indication.

A selection of red wines from around the world, all reflecting major varietals and/or regions, were chosen for the tasting. All had to be \$15 or less to underscore the basic economy of the dish.

Four of the eight red wines sampled earned three-corkscrew, or very good, ratings. The panelists tasted all of the wines solo first, then paired each wine with chili. As always when tasting wine with food, the score that counted was how well the wine worked with the chili.

with food, the score that counted was how well the wine worked with the chili.

■ 2002 Rodney Strong Cabernet Sauvignon: Panelists really liked this smooth Sonoma County red. It came in first when paired with the chili and second on its own. The wine's cherry flavor and cedary nose kicked the chill into a higher, tastier gear. 3 corks. \$11.

■ 2003 Cantele Primitivo Salento: From the Apulia region of southeastern talay comes this wonderfully jammy red made from primitivo grapes, a sister to zintandei. Its simplicity allowed the chill's well-behaved flavor to come through. 3 corks. \$8.

■ 2004 Borsao Red Wine: From Spain's Campo de Borja region, this wine is a blend of 75 percent garnacha and 25 percent tempranillo. The wine offers plenty of blackberry flavor with just the light-est frost of mint on the introductory notes and it matches the chill in terms of intensity. 3 corks. \$6.

■ 2002 Trinchero Family Selection Meriot: A California red made mostly with grapes from Monterey County. The wine is

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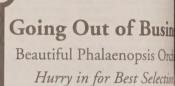


coothsome with berry and cherry flavors jazzed up with a pinch of plack pepper. Totally sippable on ts own, the wine also doesn't up-stage the chili. 3 corks. \$9. ■ 2003 E. Gulgal Cotes du

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MIDWESTERN CHILI, with its mix of tomato, beans and ground beef, pairs well with a glass of red w

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